

the chronicle

Carnival capers

Pelsall decides to party on despite downpours

See page 12



Fishing hooked

Anglers head to town centre lake for contest

See page 19



End of regiment

The proud story of the Staffords comes to a close

See page 28



M6 chaos trucker had been drinking

A HUNGARIAN national has admitted driving a lorry the wrong way down the M6 while more than twice the drink-drive limit.

Pal Korbely was not driving with lights though it was around 10.30pm as the lorry brought chaos to the northbound carriageway on Saturday. He had left Hilton Park Services by the wrong sliproad and drove for three miles. The chaos came to an end when three concerned lorry drivers formed a barricade in order to stop the 50-year-old at Junction 10.

Risk

At Birmingham Magistrates Court on Monday, Korbely pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol.

District judge Mr Jack McGarva committed the case to Birmingham Crown Court for sentencing, saying: "You posed a risk of catastrophic harm."

Prosecutor Mr David Devine said various 999 calls were received as other drivers spotted the lorry driving the wrong way.

Korbely was remanded in custody and will be sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on August 6.

Motorists terrified by juggernaut – see page 3

Robbery at bookmakers

CASH was taken during an armed robbery at a bookmakers in Willenhall.

A man thought to be carrying a handgun approached the counter at Stan James Bookmakers in High Road, Lane Head, and demanded the money. He then fled on foot with a small quantity of cash in the direction of Lodge Street.

The robbery happened between 6.35pm and 6.50pm on Thursday, July 5.

A 27-year-old man has been arrested and bailed while police investigations continue. Nobody was hurt during the raid.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Health staff suspended after man dies on hospital doorstep

MEDICAL staff have been suspended and an investigation launched after a man died on the doorstep of Walsall Manor Hospital.

The man is believed to be Carl Cope, of Parker Street, Bloxwich, who was in his mid-40s.

It is thought that he was admitted to the Pleck Road hospital earlier in the day with chest pains and collapsed when he momentarily stepped outside on June 23.

Passers-by were seen taking photographs of him on their mobile phones and witnesses alleged that medical staff initially ignored the patient when he keeled over.

Investigations

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said "a number of staff" had been suspended while investigations are carried out, although it would not confirm how many.

Four staff from West Midlands Ambulance Service have also been suspended in connection with the incident.

Mr Cope's sister did not want to comment while the investigation was under way.

Sue Hartley, director of nursing at Walsall Manor Hospital, confirmed there had been an incident involving the death of a patient.

She said: "We have launched a full investigation. We have a number of staff who

have been suspended while the investigation takes place."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Steve Parry said: "I can confirm that an incident happened on the Walsall Manor Hospital site on June 23 in which a patient died. Four members of staff have been suspended and a full investigation has been launched by the trust which is expected to be completed within the next two weeks."

Park lido is out of action all summer

HISTORIC Walsall Arboretum lido will be out of action all summer after work to revamp and replace it hit further delays.

The much-loved attraction has been used by families since 1953. It is due to be replaced with interactive water jets after it was condemned as unhygienic.

But Walsall Council chiefs have revealed the £250,000 project will now not start until September. The decision has been taken to minimise disruption during the busier summer months as the main £7.6 million restoration of Arboretum continues.

Families

The new feature was initially expected to be ready ahead of the school holidays. It was then due to be later in August but bosses have now admitted longer delays.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said the work had been put off to enable families to use the play area over the summer.

"Work is also being carried out in the main core of the Arboretum and the last thing families want is even more heavy machinery or contractors' vehicles using the park," he said.

Volunteers for the libraries

OPENING hours will increase at some Walsall libraries under proposals to use more volunteers to run services.

The borough council invests more than £6 million a year in supporting voluntary groups and is looking at getting more people to help.

The use of volunteers is already being explored at the library and community facility at The Square in New Invention, which is set to have its hours extended from September.

It is among measures being looked at by the authority's new Conservative and Liberal Democrats Coalition.

WARNING OVER ROGUE TRADERS

ELDERLY people in Walsall are being urged to be on their guard following a rise in the number of rogue traders preying on the aged and vulnerable over the past month. In one case, a pensioner in Pelsall was conned out of his £2,500 savings.

Council chiefs this week pledged to "hunt these people down" and prosecute them to the letter of the law.

Walsall Police said they will work closely with Trading Standards officers to crack down on offenders after an increase in them offering bogus services including repairs, cleaning and garden work.

There have been at least three cases of common targeting the elderly recently and officers are noticing an increase.

All of the victims have been over 80 and large sums of cash have been handed over for unnecessary work including gardening and pest control services.

Kevin Pitt, community partnerships officer at Walsall Police, said: "Rogue traders can sometimes try to convince you that an unnecessary job needs doing."

"They can then use pressure and intimidation to extract large sums of money in advance of the work of being completed."

In Pelsall an elderly man handed over money to three men who came to his home in a white van last month and said gardening was needed to deal with a rat infestation.

by Lisa O'Brien

They also tried to persuade him to transfer ownership of his home to them.

An 84-year-old man in Blakenall handed over £25 to two men posing as Walsall Housing Group callers, who also had a white van. A 93-year-old woman in Shire Oak was persuaded to let a male cold caller into her home who said a tree had to be cut down.

Disease

Condemning the criminals, Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council Coalition's portfolio holder for public protection, said, "Honest traders have nothing to fear – we are issuing a warning about rogue traders."

"We are advising people that if they need garden work doing, trees cutting down or repairs made to their home they should always obtain several written quotes from reputable firms and not be intimidated by cold callers."

"The people responsible for stealing from our respected senior citizens are the people who are quite frankly the disease in our society."

"We will hunt these people down and prosecute them to the full letter of the law."

Right royal theme for Rosie's festival



Rosie's mother Karen Ross with Natalie Charles and Chrissie Hawkins (right), and Ernie the dog, as they prepare for Rosie's Charity Walk and Festival

WALKERS can step out in red, white and blue – or even a tiara – for a royal celebration with a difference on Sunday. The annual Rosie's Charity Walk and Festival has a Diamond Jubilee theme at Aldridge Airfield, off Bosty Lane.

It is in memory of Walsall schoolgirl Rosie Ross, who was fatally stabbed aged just 16 in May 2001 in a motiveless attack in Birmingham city centre. The walk and festival is organised by Rosie's parents Karen and Sean Ross, who set up Rosie's Helping Hands charity.

Musical talent has been lined up for the event, including the Staffordshire Air Cadets Wind Band and Midlands Got Talent winner 12-year-old singer Natasha Blundell.

Support

There will be stalls and crafts, a fairground, go-karts and pony rides. Walkers have a choice of a one or three mile sponsored walk.

Karen said: "We are very grateful for all of the support we receive each year for Rosie's Walk."

Entry to the event is free for people collecting sponsors or for a donation of £5 per adult. The walks start at 12 with last entries at 1.30pm and the festival runs from 12 until 4pm. To register contact Karen on 01922 456398, email rosieshelpinghands.org or visit the website www.rosieshelpinghands.org

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CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Clubs	8
Letters	14
Memory Lane	28
TV Listings	30-32
Puzzles	33
Property	34-45
Motoring	46-49
Classified	50-54
Sport	55-56

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Friends group aiming to protect The Lea



Campaigners celebrate saving The Lea in Goscote, from left, Councillor Pete Smith, Graham Taylor, Iris Wall, Ken Wall, Maxine Preston and Barry Preston

CAMPAIGNERS who fought a successful campaign against plans for hundreds of homes to be built on green belt land in Walsall have pledged to safeguard its future.

Plans to build 240 homes on The Lea, in Goscote, were dropped following an outcry from residents. Now campaigners are setting up a Friends group in a bid to protect and improve the land near Hardy Road.

They want to clear the land in the hope it can be better used by the community and are planning a meeting next week.

The homes had been planned as part of the multi-million pound revamp of the Goscote estate. Housing was earmarked on The Lea as part of a scheme for 700 homes in the area. A new scheme, without incorporating The Lea, is currently being developed.

Councillor Pete Smith was among those calling for the land to remain as green belt. He said: "There was a large local campaign and a 800-name petition. We want houses built in this area but on brown belt land, not on the green belt."

"We are now going to form a Friends of the Lea group. They will focus on clearing any debris away from The Lea and cut back the overgrowth."

Football

He said the group will work with Walsall Council and other agencies to win funding for further improvements. "We would also like to put football nets up," he added.

The meeting will be held at the Ryecroft Resource Centre in Dartmouth Avenue on Wednesday, July 18, at 6pm.

Physical rehab unit for elderly to close

A REHABILITATION centre in Walsall used to support hospital patients who have been recently discharged is to close, sparking fears of job losses.

Rushall Mews offers temporary accommodation to 26 residents at one time and its services have been used by more than 1,000 people over the last few years. Housing 21, which runs the centre in New Street, has announced plans to close the venue.

Bosses say it is not yet known how jobs will be affected.

One worker, who did not want to be named, said it was feared at least 60 roles could be at risk.

The worker added: "It is a popular and successful rehabilitation unit. There had been rumours circulating for a couple of days and we

by Lisa O'Brien

were called to an emergency meeting. People are not very happy, we could be redundant and there are not many jobs out there."

Les Clarke, operations director for Housing 21, said the organisation was working in partnership with Walsall Council and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust to ensure the continuation of services in the meantime.

He said: "I can confirm that Rushall Mews is to close. We have met with staff and are talking to them about the situation."

"However, we are not yet in a position to be certain about how people's jobs will be affected."

Consultation

Paul Davies, executive director for social care and inclusion at Walsall Council, said staff and partners were being consulted over the future of services in order to meet rising demands.

He added: "The consultation is focusing on the possibility of provision for better and more modern facilities than what is currently available at Rushall Mews."

Rushall Mews is used by elderly people who need physical rehab after being discharged from hospital before returning home.

Firm on the move to new HQ in Aldridge

AN INTERNATIONAL removal company has received the go-ahead to relocate its headquarters, creating new jobs in Aldridge.

Movecorp is to transfer from Shenstone to Aldridge after Walsall Council gave the green light.

The business announced plans to move to a site in Westgate, as part of proposals to boost its current 50-strong workforce to 60.

The proposals for the firm which provides its services to companies and domestic removal clients across Europe, has been given planning permission.

Final farewell to veteran Bill



The body of Bill Davis is carried into St Giles Church in Willenhall with a guard of honour

WAR veteran Bill Davis, who was found dead with head injuries a his Willenhall home, was finally laid to rest last Thursday.

The 92-year-old, who served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, was given a guard of honour at his funeral.

Family members and friends gathered to pay their respects at St Giles Church in Walsall Street, Willenhall. Members of the Royal British Legion gave their promised "final farewell fitting for the man."

Standard bearers formed a guard of honour as the coffin, draped with the Royal Naval Ensign, was carried into the church. Many ex-service people were at the service to pay their respects.

The congregation was told to treasure their memories of Mr Davis, a former Josiah Parkes worker. The grandfather-of-four

served in the Royal Navy from 1939 until 1955.

Two hymns were sung, The Lord's My Shepherd and Eternal Father Strong To Save, which is associated with seafarers. Burial took place at Willenhall Lawn Cemetery.

Speaking after the funeral, Father Andrew Welsby, Vicar of St Giles, who led the service, said: "We gave thanks for Bill's life and service to his country and also for being a good father, husband and grandfather."

Mr Davis was found dead at his home in Hobley Street on April 1 with severe head injuries. Charlotte Frazier-Doody, aged 34, who lived in Hobley Street, has been charged with his murder.

See tribute on page 23

Go-karts no nuisance, says chief

THE launch of an indoor go-karting track and laser tag game at a Willenhall business park will not impact on nearby residents, council chiefs say.

Vacant units at Alvar Business Park are being transformed into the leisure complex, bringing up to 14 jobs. The proposals for the Straight Road site have been agreed by the borough's planning committee.

Concerns

Hundreds of people backed the plans, which also include a new vehicle repairs and MOT station.

Concerns were raised about noise, parking and impact on the character of the area. A 49-name petition was collected in opposition to the scheme.

But another petition with 578 signatures claimed the leisure facilities were much-needed.

Head of planning David Elsworth said the plan "would not unduly impact on the amenities of the occupiers of the flats and residential properties opposite over and above what the industrial re-use of the business park could generate."

A battle of the Black Country

ROUGH and tumble fun for all the family is promised during a wrestling match at Darlaston All Active Club later this month in a battle of the Black Country.

Heavyweight wrestling champion Mad Dog Maxx, of Walsall, will be taking on local rival Tom Mason, of Dudley, at the Willenhall Road venue on July 20.

Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, or £17.50 for a family of four.

Call 07885 763966 for tickets or further details.

Walk in Worcs

WALSALL rambblers will be heading to Worcestershire for a "relatively easy" seven mile walk on Sunday.

The ramble, being called the Peevit Patrol, will follow the River Severn and a ridge giving views across the Severn valley.

Non-members can attend the walk and for more details call (01922) 455257.

Further information about the Walsall group is available at website www.walsallramblers.co.uk

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Rain will not delay Waterfront scheme

WORK on the final phase of the multi-million pound Walsall Waterfront for more than 300 homes is on track for completion this autumn.

Despite the bad weather developers are confident the last stage for 82 canalside apartments will be finished in September.

The overall Waterfront South project started two years ago with the main 111-apartment block and 22 houses completed in Easter last year.

Another 82 apartments were handed over to Caldermore Housing Association earlier this year leaving work on the final block, also of 82 flats.

Regeneration

The regeneration project off Wolverhampton Street is being carried out through Cannock-based developers Jessup. Spokesman Ian Jackson said: "The schedule is still pretty much there. They are working inside most of the time now."

Walsall Waterfront is to transform 17 acres and create a picturesque waterside quarter under £65 million improvement plans.

On the nearby Waterfront North site another scheme for a 100-bed Premier Inn Hotel is progressing. Whitbread are opening the hotel in addition to a large Brewers Fayre restaurant.

Death rate at hospital falling

MORTALITY rates at Walsall Manor Hospital have dropped for the second month running, although there is no room for complacency, bosses have stressed.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has vowed to take action to tackle high mortality rates at the hospital. The Manor was recently given a rating of 108 for standardised mortality rates by health information provider Dr Foster, with the expected level 100. But the board was last week told this had dropped to 86 in April, following a fall to 95 in March.

Health chiefs say there is still work to do. This is amid concerns that figures will rise sharply due to the forthcoming rebasing of the Dr Foster index.

The trust last month revealed plans for extra weekend and evening consultants along with a review of respiratory services. Nursing rounds every two hours have been brought in.

Butcher died after breaking his knee in a fall



Christopher Stanley

A BUTCHER died after falling over and breaking his knee at Birmingham indoor market, an inquest heard.

Christopher Stanley, who worked at Enoch's in the city centre market near the Bullring, slipped in a loading bay while collecting a delivery.

He had hospital treatment and appeared to be making a recovery but collapsed at his sister's house eight days later, having suffered a blood clot. The 38-year-old, from Walsall, who had been about to start a new job, was pronounced dead at Walsall Manor Hospital on June 22 last year.

At Smethwick Coroners Court last week a jury recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Speaking after the hearing Mr Stanley's sister Alison Mornington said they would be getting advice from their solicitor before deciding what to do next.

"I am very pleased with the outcome," she said. "I can finally put my brother to rest. As for the next step, we will have to wait and see."

The inquest heard the slip was probably as a result of liquid from fish crates in the loading bay of the market. Mr Stanley's leg was put in a

plaster cast after the fall, and he went to stay with Mrs Mornington, who lived next door to him in Miner Road, Walsall.

She was helping him get ready for his first day at Morrison's supermarket in Bescot when he collapsed.

Dr Ye-Lin Hock, who carried out the post-mortem, told the hearing Mr Stanley had suffered a blood clot in his right leg and part of this had travelled to his lungs, cutting off the blood supply. He said that "on the balance of probabilities" the clot was caused by the fall.

Motorists 'terrified' by wrong way juggernaut

A FOREIGN lorry hurtled more than three miles down the M6 in the wrong direction, terrifying motorists before being brought to a halt by quick-thinking HGV drivers near Walsall.

The continental lorry brought chaos to the northbound carriageway after it left Hilton Park Services via the wrong sliproad. It travelled down the middle lane of the carriageway for three miles until it reached junction 10 for Walsall and Wolverhampton, where three lorry drivers formed a barricade to stop it travelling further.

M6 lane closures hitting drivers twice a month

DRIVERS are being hit with lane closures during emergency works on the M6 at an average of twice a month, figures have revealed.

Schemes have included carriageway resurfacing, pothole repairs and because of cable thefts along the busy stretch between Junction seven at Great Barr and 15 at Stoke. The hotspot areas for emergency works resulting in lane restrictions were between junction 10 at Walsall and 10a at Essington, along with junction eight at Ray Hall Interchange. These locations had six projects each.

There were a total of 25 times where unplanned disruptions were needed to carry out work between June 2011 to 2012, the Highways Agency said.

The biggest month for problems was April of this year when nine schemes needed to be carried out. Bosses insisted every effort was made to minimise disruption. Andy Butterfield, service delivery manager, for Highways Agency in the West Midlands, said: "Safety for road users and our workforce is our top priority. Emergency works are sometimes essential to get this very busy motorway back up to capacity as soon as we are able to."

Repairs

"When it is safe to do so, the hard shoulder or available lanes are used to allow traffic to pass emergency works."

"Where damage has occurred, we will look to carry out the minimum repair necessary and return to complete repairs at a time which will minimise delays. We continue to work closely with the police and other emergency services to minimise disruption as much as possible and keep the as many lanes as we can open wherever possible."

Work on a £126 million scheme to open up another section of the M6 hard shoulder to traffic is now officially under way.

Terrified motorists who saw the lorry coming towards them at 10.30pm on Saturday called police who were on the scene within minutes.

Warning

The lorry driver tested positive for drinking alcohol and was arrested for dangerous driving.

Warning signs had flashed up warning drivers of the oncoming juggernaut.

Drivers were also told to slow down as the lorry approached, with speed limits reduced to 30mph.

Onlookers said it had been a "terrifying" experience.

Photographer Jonathan Hipkiss, 24, of Halesowen, said he had seen the lorry around junction 10. "The gantry signs were warning drivers a vehicle was oncoming and the speed limit was brought down to 30mph," he said. "I was travelling in the first lane so did not have to change."

"It was quite scary to see the juggernaut go past in the wrong direction."

Another motorist Collette Henry, of Codsall, added: "I could not believe what I was seeing."

"The juggernaut was just coming towards me and did not have any lights on. I moved lanes and then pulled up to call the police."

Police hunting man who exposed himself

A MAN indecently exposed himself to a woman as she went to pick up children from school in Willenhall.

It happened in Bentley Lane on Tuesday, July 2. The man was white, in his mid 40s, 6ft tall with black collar-length hair. He was thought to be driving a black Ford Mondeo with a 61 plate. Call Walsall Police on 101.

Soldier is awarded MBE



Captain Makand Singh, of Walsall, has been presented with the MBE after 34 years military service

A SOLDIER from Walsall who has served in the Army for 34 years has been honoured with an MBE for his services to Great Britain and its ethnic communities.

Captain Makand Singh was presented the award by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The 51-year-old attended the ceremony with his wife Bindi.

Captain Singh, who lives in Walsall, is now with the 159 Supply Regiment working at its Coventry headquarters in Canley.

The soldier said: "I have enjoyed my whole career with the Army but for the last 10 years, working in the West Midlands helping to make an Army career accessible to members of local communities, has been particularly rewarding."

Sikhs

"There are now more than 95 Sikhs in the British Army as well as many Hindu and Muslim soldiers. All are catered for with special diets, prayer times and religious leaders."

He also said: "I am very honoured to receive the MBE and was delighted to be presented with it by HRH The Princess Royal as she is Colonel-in-Chief of my Corps - the Royal Logistics Corps."

Captain Singh was born in Kuala Lumpur. His father, Baldev Singh, served in the British Army and he followed the tradition by joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and has served across the world.

Gym idea for Darlaston venue

A COMMUNITY gym could open in Darlaston Town Hall in a bid to boost its fortunes.

Talks are being held between council chiefs and an external provider over the move.

Campaigners welcomed the news and said it could boost use of the Victoria Road venue.

Recently it was announced the marriage licence for the hall would be scrapped after couples snubbed the chance to wed there.

Over all, it attracted 82 bookings last year.

Birthday boost for hospice fund

A BLOXWICH man raised almost £2,000 for St Giles Walsall Hospice when he asked friends and family to make a donation rather than buy him presents for his 50th birthday.

Gary Hackett celebrated and so did the charity, which runs a hospice in Goscoe Lane, by being £1,850 better off.

Mr Hackett topped up that fundraising by a further £900 by taking part in the 100km Brewood Cycle Challenge in aid of the hospice.

Homes plan for former club site

PROPOSALS for new homes on the site of the former High Heath Working Men's Club in Pelsall have been submitted to Walsall Council planners.

The application for the four bedroom detached properties in Coronation Road will now be considered by the council.

New presidents at Rotary clubs

TWO local Rotary Clubs, which raise money for charities, have new presidents. Retired teacher Ian Hankinson, who was headteacher of Pinfold Street Primary, is new president of Darlaston Rotary Club. Michael Scordis was elected President of the Rotary Club of Willenhall.

Church favourite songs of praise

THE nation's favourite hymns will be sung at Coalpool Methodist Church, Coalpool Lane on Sunday at 3pm. The service will be led by Rev John Davies and Gilbert Rowley.

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THE BEST
OF PETER
RHODES

A READER writes: "I spend an hour every morning playing fruit machines. Does this count towards my five a day?"

CRIMINAL records officers. Have they got form?

HE HAS died but his talent, preserved in hundreds of films and radio shows, will become immortal. In generations to come, actors who want to know how to move, how to use their hands, how to deliver the perfect comedy line will study the matchless technique of Eric Sykes and be amazed that he did it so well even when he was stone-deaf and almost blind. What a star.

A SHARP-eyed correspondent notes that the Spiderman costume in the latest movie makes going to the toilet impossible and "could it be something to do with the flies?" Thankfully, as far as I can recall in any comic or movie, no Superhero has ever gone to the loo. Frankly, if your hands emitted spider webs, bolts of lightning or great balls of fire, would you want to?

I AM a great admirer of TV commercials and the professionals behind these clever 30-second messages. However, in the interests of accuracy, it has to be said that if you are in a caravan battered by a summer squall with rain lashing at the windows and the kids snarling at each other as your two precious holiday weeks turn into a wretched, wringing, bloody nightmare, a bowl of Rice Krispies will not put everything right.

OUR changing language. A reader has lived for years close to a car breaker's yard. It has suddenly rebranded itself as an "end of life treatment facilities for cars and commercial vehicles."

PLEASE, don't get over-excited about all these headlines promising: "Britain to Get Vote on Europe." Let's not forget, David Cameron promised us a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, a pledge which was quietly dumped once he took power. All he is suggesting now is putting the vague offer of some sort of vote about the EU in the next Conservative manifesto. Huge pinch of salt, folks.

THERESA May is tearing up Labour's checklist of facts that immigrants are expected to learn before becoming British citizens. From now on, applicants will be expected to memorise the first verse of the National Anthem and know a bit about the Beatles, Byron, the Duke of Wellington, Florence Nightingale, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the King James Bible. Which, let's be frank, is far more than most life-long Brits know. Come to think of it, how many people are aware who Theresa May is? Er...

ONE of the BBC's legion of 2012 hacks reports from the Olympic athletes' accommodation: The best bits are the bathrooms, which of course will stay unchanged in legacy.

Legacy? It's a bathroom, for heaven's sake, not the Eiffel Tower.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bad weather hitting take up of market stalls

LESS than half of the stalls are being taken on market days in some parts of Walsall with traders blaming the wet weather.

An average of just 41 per cent of spaces are being taken up at Bloxwich Market on Tuesdays with many spots left empty. Walsall Market also struggles on Wednesdays where there is an average of 59 per cent of stalls occupied.

It follows figures showing that more than £280,000 was generated from council-run pitches in the last 12 months.

Deficit

Although Willenhall made a deficit of just over £30,000 the take up of stalls on a Wednesday averages 86 per cent, 75 per cent on a Friday and drops again on a Saturday to 69 per cent. The main profit-making event at Walsall Market, which brings in over £300,000 and helps cover the losses at Willenhall, has 98 stalls which peaks at an average take up of 90 per cent on Mondays.

Take up is 87 per cent on Saturdays, 80 on Fridays and 78 on Tuesdays before dropping to 59 on Wednesdays.

In Bloxwich the most popular day is Friday with 80 per cent of stalls on average filled, 68 per cent on Saturdays and just 41 per cent on Tuesdays.

Traders said the poor weather was having a bearing.

Promotions and advertisements are being used to help boost take up by traders said regeneration boss Councillor Adrian Andrew.

Threat lifted from jobs of school meals staff

MORE than 250 catering jobs have been saved after Walsall Council axed plans to scrap school catering funding.

The cash-strapped authority was looking at axing the £79,000 a year school meal subsidy for more than 70 primary and secondary schools from September.

Bosses have confirmed that the proposals for the Walsall Catering Service have now been reviewed and dropped.

There were fears meal prices could rise as schools were faced with having to manage the food provision themselves, using the private sector or buying in the council-managed service.

This could have seen parents left to cover the funding gap. Under the proposals it would also have seen around 252 kitchen workers at risk.

by Craig Hughes

Car wash gets the OK

A CAR wash in Willenhall town centre has received council permission to continue operating at its site.

An application for the business, in Lower Lichfield Street, had been submitted to Walsall Council. It has now been granted by planning officers under delegated powers after no objections were received.

A statement by the applicants said: "The facility on Lower Lichfield Street has been operating for months and does not detract in any way from the surrounding areas and produces minimal, if any, environmental impact."

Thrived

"The nature of the business allows a facility to benefit the public and the local area of Willenhall."

"Since opening and beginning operation, the facility has thrived without complaint."

Head of planning David Elsworth said the scheme was an appropriate use for the former industrial site.

Where schools opted out of the council catering provision, it meant staff faced the possibility of being made redundant.

A working group was set up as part of a review into the future of school meals.

Council leader Mike Bird said the option had been reassessed by the authority and the current situation would remain for the foreseeable future.

"For some children it is the only hot meal they get," Councillor Bird said. "It is in the budget and it will stay in the budget."

Savings

Chris Holliday, head of leisure and community health, said the money was savings the service needed to make in the 2012/2013 financial year.

"The saving has been achieved by the deletion of a vacant post and several other efficiencies."

"No jobs have been affected," he said.

The council has to make £67 million in savings.

Grave concern

WORRIES have been raised over a lack of parking at a cemetery being provided for Walsall borough in Staffordshire.

Councillor Paul Atkins is concerned there are only 20 visitor spaces at the £1.4 million Walsall Burial Park, being created between Burntwood and Brownhills.

Poet's Olympic celebration



Bloxwich poet Jae Alexander Linsey, Walsall's poet laureate Ian Henry, Impulse Marketing creative director Kris Burford, poet Kristina Griffiths and folk musician Tim Philpot launching the Olympic book of poems

WALSALL's official poet laureate was celebrating after being re-elected for a second term - as a book of Olympic-themed poems was launched.

Solicitor Ian Henry, 48, has been sharing his love of poetry with the people of Walsall since being appointed by former mayor Garry Perry last May. He has now been chosen by the borough's new mayor Dennis Anson.

He was soon helping Olympic celebrations go with a swing in Willenhall, where he has a law practice. Father-of-four Mr Henry, of Aldridge, was joined by fellow performers in the town centre.

A poetry book, 2012 Olympics, has been created with the help of local scout groups and is priced £5. Money raised will go to the 6th Walsall Scouts. The book can be bought from Mr Henry's office in Bilston Street.

Milestone at primary

STAFF and pupils at a primary school in Walsall are celebrating its 50th anniversary.

An internet blog has been set up for people connected to Bentley West Primary School, past and present, to share their memories, stories and photographs from the last five decades.

Staff want to hear from people who taught at or attended the Monmouth Road school when it opened in January 1962.

Current pupils at the school have also produced a newspaper which contains a number of articles relating to the history of the area and the school.

Memories

Anyone who would like to share memories or information about the school can visit the website at www.bentley-west.walsall.sch.uk and click on the blog link, which went live on July 9.

Meanwhile, stories and photographs can also be sent to the school by emailing them to BW50@bentleyfederation.org.uk

The school will hold an open event on Thursday, July 19, to celebrate its five decades.

Parents, ex-pupils and members of the local community are welcome to join the celebrations from 9am to noon and view a wall of memories.

On the same day, there will be an anniversary lunch for friends of the school, and at 2pm a balloon release will take place.

Scrap man hit by fines

A SCRAP metal merchant has been fined for not having the correct paperwork and failing to show up for an interview.

Nicholas Simkiss, of Green Rock Lane, Walsall, was stopped on the Wall Island on the A5 near Lichfield last November.

He had no documentation with him when his vehicle was subject to a check, so officers served a notice to produce it in seven days.

The council decided to prosecute after Simkiss did not provide the information, failed to pay the £300 fixed penalty notice and did not attend an interview.

Simkiss was charged with failing to comply with requirement to provide relevant information.

He appeared at Stafford Magistrates Court on June 20 and admitted the offence.

Magistrates fined him £300 and ordered him to pay court costs of £495.58.

Hospice torch boost

A GROUP raising funds for St Giles Walsall Hospice collected more than £300 in Bloxwich on the day the Olympic torch came.

WS3 Friends of Walsall Hospice raised money with a tombola and a collection.

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New pub, shop and homes in Bloxwich

THE development of a new pub, shop and residential complex in Bloxwich will help lead regeneration in the area, council chiefs say.

The former Leathern Bottle pub is being pulled down to make way for a three-storey block in Cresswell Crescent after receiving the backing from planners. Up to 10 jobs will be created and permission was granted despite concerns on noise and nuisance.

The former pub was hit with problems in 2009. There were two police raids and Class A drugs were recovered.

Head of planning David Elsworth said: "The proposed development would assist in regenerating a vacant and derelict site."

The council rejected previous plans for shops and maisonettes on the site after saying developers had failed to justify the loss of a pub.

Six letters of objection were lodged with the council over the approved scheme including concerns over noise, attracting groups of youths, late opening hours and increased traffic.

Two letters of support were submitted stating there is no pub in the area at present. The pub is expected to open between 11am and 11pm and the shop from 6am to 9pm.

Fines threat over children

HEFTY fines will be imposed and social services called in to deal with youngsters collecting scrap metal on carts in Walsall, council chiefs have warned.

Walsall Council is to launch a crackdown after concerns were raised about the number of youngsters involved in collecting scrap metal that way.

Those responsible for the children could be fined up to £1,000 after the authority announced it intends to enforce a byelaw regulating the employment of children.

Harmful

The byelaw, states that children are banned from occupations "involving the likelihood of exposure to dangerous or harmful substances or processes".

It includes collecting, weighing, loading and transporting scrap metal. It also covers other materials, such as broken glass, petrol and refuse.

Repairs to be rolled out to six borough schools

A £585,000 scheme to carry out repair work at six Walsall schools will be rolled out during the summer holidays.

The package will see roof repairs carried out, and new windows, heating and fire alarms installed.

Two secondary schools and four primary schools are among those to benefit from the funding. The scheme aims to deliver improved learning environments for pupils and families.

About £150,000 will be spent on replacing roofing on the sports hall at Brownhills School.

Alarm

The final phase of an £80,000 heating replacement scheme will be carried out at Kings Hill Primary School, Darlaston, while fire alarms will be replaced at Meadow View Primary, Great Barr, costing £50,000.

Around £80,000 worth of roofing work will be carried out at Palfrey Infants School,

along with £100,000 of both roof and window replacement work at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College in Aldridge.

Brownhills West Primary School is in line for a £125,000 rewiring and fire alarm replacement scheme.

Work at the school is scheduled to be carried out later in the year.

Kevin Kendall, head of property services at Walsall Council, said: "All of these works will be taking place over the school summer

holidays except for Brownhills West which will be taking place during the autumn term outside of school hours."

Improvements

Money for the work will come from the educational capital programme with some additional funding from some of the schools involved.

It comes after £800,000 worth of improvements were completed at 11 primary schools earlier this year.

Heritage lottery cash to save church paintings

AN HISTORIC church in Walsall has received a funding boost of almost £70,000 towards preserving its distinctive features, including rare paintings dating back more than a century.

Rushall Parish Church has secured cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help its £195,000 conservation plans for the building in Leigh Road. It is looking to preserve the building's unique Pre-Raphaelite wall paintings, repair its historic stained glass windows and carry out essential works to the external walls.

Football club offering free child tickets

ALLOWING hundreds of young fans the chance to get their hands on free Darlaston Town FC season tickets will help secure the future of the club, say football club bosses.

Up to 500 season tickets are being offered to under-14s by the non-league football club. Paul Harrison, new manager of the club, which is believed to be the second oldest in the country, said he hoped that the initiative would draw in families and generate £2,000 in funding.

Councillors have backed the plans and a plea has been made to potential sponsors urging them to support the club and preserve the town's foot ball heritage.

Mr Harrison said: "By giving children free tickets, they might bring their parents along which will generate revenue for the season."

Sponsors

He said the club still needs sponsors, adding: "We were rock bottom a couple of months back but we are moving forward now as a club, however we do need the support of the local community and businesses."

The running costs of the club amount to £12,000 a season.

Darlaston South Councillor Paul Bott has backed the initiative. He said: "It's the heritage of Darlaston. Anything that helps this football club survive is much appreciated."

"It has been an uphill struggle for the club and I urge anyone who can help with funding to speak to the club and help them get over a rough period."

Darlaston Town play in the West Midlands Premier League at their City Ground pitch in Waverley Road.

Call Mr Harrison on 07759 019366 to help or to get season tickets.

The church has been notified that it has been awarded £68,000 towards the scheme through Lottery funding and is looking for further donations.

It is the next phase of improvement work for St Michael's, which dates back to 1856, although there has been a church at the location since 1220.

A new heating system to stop paintings getting damaged was installed more than four years ago, whilst £27,000 has also been spent on fixing the church bells.

It is hoped all funding for the £195,000 conservation scheme can be secured by next March so work can begin in spring 2013.

Milestone

The cash boost has been hailed as a major milestone for the church.

The Vicar Rev Colin Such said: "We are all delighted to receive this news which will go a long way to help us fund this work which will cost £195,000."

"We shall now be approaching other funders as well as stepping up our own fund raising efforts."

Bob Barnard, spokesman for the church, added: "The grant is culmination of many years hard work and devotion by many members of the congregation to preserve the wall paintings and it will also enable us to preserve our beautiful church for future generations."

The grant is part of £7.5m lottery funding to repair 77 Grade II listed places of worship.

Carole Souter, chief executive of HLF, said: "Places of worship include some of England's most historic buildings. They sit at the heart of our cities, towns and villages and continue to play a vital role."

History book is launched



Historian Tony Highfield with his new book about the history of Darlaston. He is pictured with project manager Sharon Felton and Pauline Poole, secretary of All Active

A BOOK charting the history of Darlaston during the war years has been launched by local historian Tony Highfield.

Darlaston Back in Time 1930 to 1950 is a 64-page book recounts tales from people and families living in the town during the war years, and includes dozens of old photographs. The book was officially launched on Friday at Darlaston All Active Centre, in Willenhall Road.

Mr Highfield, who has compiled up to 15

other history books about Darlaston, said: "It will certainly bring back some memories for people."

The book launch is part of a history project looking at Black Country life from the 1930s to 1950s. Darlaston All Active has been awarded a total of £42,800 of Heritage Lottery funding for its 18-month project.

The book is free and any remaining copies will be available from the centre.

Focus on new photo exhibition

A PHOTOGRAPHER will be talking about his work at the preview of his exhibition at Walsall's New Art Gallery on Thursday, July 19.

Mark Power has produced a series of urban landscapes. The exhibition, called Black Country Stories, will be on show from July 20 to September 15.

People can attend a preview evening between 6pm and 8pm on July 19. Book on (01922) 654400.

Join litter pick to boost bloom bid

A LITTER pick is taking place in Aldridge ahead of the arrival of Heart of England in Bloom judges next week.

The pick is being held on Monday, the day before the inspection, from 6 to 7pm and is open to everyone.

Those interested in supporting the event are asked to meet on the Anchor Road frontage of Aldridge Shopping Centre.

Open day at the 'Tin Tabernacle'

AN OPEN day with displays, bric-a-brac and tombola is being held at a Rushall's 'Tin Tabernacle' on Saturday.

The event involving local organisations takes place at the Church of Christ The King Rushall from 11am until 3pm. Admission is free.

Pub is to host a family fun day

A PUB in Walsall Wood will be hosting a family fun day on Saturday.

The event will be held at The Drunken Duck from 11.30am-11.30pm. There will be a magician, face painting, bouncy castle, barbecue, karaoke and table top sale.

Punch and Judy shows for park

PUNCH and Judy shows will be among the attractions keeping youngsters entertained at a family fun day in Palfrey Park, Dale Street, on July 23 from 10.30am to 4pm.

Library to host stories for tots

STORYTIME sessions will take place at Pelsall Library next week. The library in High Street is hosting stories at 10am on July 24 for the under 3s, and another on July 31 for those over five.

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Saddlers boss unveils artificial football pitch



Football freestyler Colin Nell shows his skills



Walsall boss Dean Smith and freestyler Colin Nell with, back, head Michael Burrowes and Councillor Christine Mitchell

Saddlers boss Dean Smith opens the new astro-turf pitches at the Liam Keeling Arena

A NEW £800,000 artificial sports pitch that will be used by thousands of people across Staffordshire has officially opened.

Walsall Football Club manager Dean Smith was on hand to do the honours and open Cannock's first full-size artificial grass pitch.

The football and hockey pitch has been unveiled at Cardinal Griffin

Roman Catholic High School, in Cardinal Way. And after the Saddlers gaffer did the honours, a host of former footballers were pulling on their boots again for a charity match.

Former Nottingham Forest player Des Lyttle, Wolves midfielder Andy Thompson and former Spurs man Andy Taylor were among the players.

The new pitch has been created following a joint project between the school and Cannock Chase Council and has been funded by the Football Found-

ation. It will be open for community use on evenings and weekends. Other schools will be able to use the pitch during the day.

Named

It has been named the Liam Keeling Arena in memory of the 13-year-old year-eight pupil who died in 2009 from meningococcal meningitis. The youngster was a promising midfielder for Wyrley Juniors, a feeder club to Walsall FC.

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thechronicle

Downpours delay work on Arboretum revamp

Queen joins celebration



With the Queen's letter are church council secretary Lynn Cooper, church wardens Jeffrey Johnson, Dee Brookes, and Rev John Barnett

A CHURCH celebrating its 60th anniversary has received congratulations from the Queen after it sent best wishes for her Diamond Jubilee year.

Members of All Saints in Darlaston sent the letter to Buckingham

Palace in recognition of her 60 year reign milestone. They highlighted how the church was completely destroyed during the Second World War, but was rebuilt and consecrated in October 1952, therefore having a similar anniversary.

PERSISTENT heavy rain has caused delays to the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall's premier park.

Bosses overseeing the £7.6 million project at Walsall Arboretum say the downpours that made last month the wettest June on record affected work on the main footpaths.

The majority of landscaping work at the huge park is expected to be finished later this month. Improvements are to be made to the arboretum road entrance and a viewing platform will be created on the site of the old Broadway toilet block.

Repairs to the gazebo on the rockery and restoration work to the historic stocks is also planned to get under way in August. New bins and benches are being installed.

Louise Harris, arboretum project manager, said the majority of the park was now open to the public.

Restoration

She said: "There have been some delays due to wet weather as the main footpath routes are being finished in a resin bonded gravel which can only be laid in dry, sunny conditions."

"Items of work which will be completed in August were late additions to the contract and include improvements to the arboretum road entrance and restoration work to the historic stocks."

The arboretum's £50,000 gallery garden recently opened to the public and offers local artists, photographers, residents, schools and community groups the opportunity to showcase their work.

The fifth and final phase of the scheme will see the creation of a visitors centre. Construction should start later this year and be finished in 2013.

The revamp is being funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, with match funding from Walsall Council, Growth Point, Cory Environmental and Veolia Environmental Trust.

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Speaker's history of chocolate

CODSALL WOOD WI

THE June meeting of Codsall Wood WI was the 'Jubilee Celebration Evening'.

The hall was decked in red white and blue flags and everyone dressed for the occasion. Also on display were photographs of past meetings and outings with WI – a truly nostalgic occasion.

The speaker for the evening was Jackie Roberts, a chocolatier. She lives in North Staffordshire and makes chocolates in her home.

She told us the history of chocolate and then proceeded to tell how she makes hers.

Members later looked at the many creations she has made, i.e. a box made out of chocolate, a shoe, a handbag, in fact she can make most things if requested.

The various chocolates with different fillings were there for the ladies to purchase.

Jackie sells her chocolate at farmers markets, or it can be ordered directly from her.

It was truly memorable evening.

Following the demonstration, a buffet was prepared by the committee, plus there was a tombola and raffle.

The next meeting is on July 26 at St Peters Hall, Codsall Wood with a talk entitled 'Will You or Won't You' by Malcolm Palmer.

Surprise visitor at jubilee celebration

Tettenhall Round Table chairman with a surprise guest and president Gail Wedge

MEMBERS dressed in red, white and blue and wore an assortment of tiaras – some of them handmade – as the club celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Members were surprised to be greeted by Her Majesty – in the form of a life-sized cardboard cut out!

The club also welcomed a special guest for dinner, Tettenhall Round Table chairman Chris Harris.

The after Dinner speaker was Eleanor Jordan who talked about her experiences, first as a volunteer and then as a trainer for

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

the Combined Cadet Force. Pat Dainty, Programme Action Chair, recently held a 'Wine into Water' event at her home which raised £450 to support Water Aid.

Marjorie Wedge joined the club's Jubilee celebrations. She celebrated her own a special milestone when she was awarded a certificate recognising her 50 years' service.

Poetry in motion with folk duo**PELSALL 'E' TWG**

members were reminded of forthcoming national events, including the AGM. In Birmingham, the Crown Green Bowls final in Chester on August 1 and the Scrab-

ble final in Birmingham on November 1.

The competition for a Royal Souvenir was won by Hilda Craddock with a china cup and saucer commemorating Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in June 1953, and the monthly raffle was won by Val Walker.

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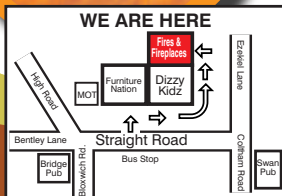
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United front brings down metal thefts

METAL theft in Willenhall is falling thanks to a new initiative which unites the resources of partner organisations. Previously released figures for metal theft and crime in Willenhall revealed the town suffered more than most.

But the success of the Willenhall Project, supported by Walsall Council's District Centre Management team, has reinforced the efforts of police and Walsall Council to combat the threat of metal related criminal activity.

Sergeant Mo Shaid, from Willenhall Police, said praised the team work. He said: "I am delighted with the hard work carried out by partner agencies and police officers in reducing metal theft and crime."

Xtra special tournament for a cyber soccer star

SAT in front of his Xbox 360 and playing Fifa 12 at home in Willenhall, football fan Ashley Rudd never imagined that a month later thousands would be watching him take on competitors in Ukraine during Euro 2012.

But that's what happened when the 20-year-old games console king secured a place in the semi-finals of the world-wide Fifa 12 video game tournament and ended up coming third.

by Lisa O'Brien

The Villa season ticket holder played for 238 hours over four weeks, taking on hundreds of online competitors at his home. He was then invited to Kiev to see the Euro 2012 final. There, he also played in his own semi-final match on a giant screen during an open-air charity concert at which Elton John performed.

Final

The former Pool Hayes Comprehensive School student lost 2-1. But he walked away with a cheque for almost £700, and cheered on Spain to victory over Italy in the Euro 2012 final at Kiev's Olympic Stadium the day after.

Ashley, of Webster Road, said that during the Fifa 12 competition he had played the game into the early hours of the morning but

still managed to hold down his job as an engineer.

He said: "I must have played against 700 people. People challenge you and you had to score points by winning matches."

"There were thousands of people in the competition."

He said he had been thrilled to get through to the semi-finals and enjoyed every minute in Ukraine.

"It was fantastic going to Kiev," he said. "I got picked up in a limousine and stayed in a suite at a hotel."

"I had the best time of my life. I was really nervous playing in the semi-finals because so many people were watching."

"I got to see Spain playing Italy. The match was great and the Spanish spectators were all loving it."



Ashley Rudd, 20, from Willenhall, is third best Fifa 2012 player in the world after taking on hundreds of gamers

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Tribute by friends



Yannick Nancarrow, Jamie Castledine and Brodie Holland with a picture of Thomas Knight

THREE Burntwood teenagers are leading an inspiring fundraising campaign to raise £1,600 in memory of their friend who died in a car accident.

Thomas Knight was just 11 when he was killed in Stables Way in 2008. He would have been 16 this year. Three of the Fulfen primary School pupil's best friends - Yannick Nancarrow, Jamie Castledine and Brodie Holland, all aged 15 - have undertaken the fundraising challenge.

They have arranged a football tournament on Saturday, July 14, to be refereed by former Premiership official Alan Wiley, and a disco on September 21 at St Matthews Sports & Social Club.

Brodie's mum Michaela Holland said the three boys, who all attend Erasmus Darwin Academy, were doing Thomas proud. Visit www.justgiving.com/brodieholland to donate.

Defects found as limos pulled over for prom night checks

LIMOUSINES and other vehicles taking students to their prom nights were found with mechanical defects and invalid licences in Walsall.

Hundreds of pupils across the Black Country use flash motors to arrive in style at their school prom.

Stretch limos and other vehicles taking teenagers to a party at Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium were pulled over by police and licensing chiefs for random spot checks. The checks were part of a crackdown that has taken place over the past month.

Officers found two vehicles operating without the required vehicle or driver's licences, while another was being operated with an expired vehicle licence on display.

Six limousines were found to have mechanical defects and were issued with prohibition notices.

One was also being driven by someone who did not hold the appropriate DVLA category licence.

Popularity

Over the past few years, the popularity of the American-style prom has grown in the West Midlands, with teenagers finding ever more eye-catching and impressive ways to make a big entrance.

But council chiefs in Walsall are urging parents to be careful when booking vehicles.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for public safety, said parents should check with the operator that they are properly licensed and, if unsure, they should contact the licensing section of their local authority.

All offences highlighted during the crackdown will be further investigated by Walsall Council's licensing team, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and West Midlands Police.

Tales from the war zone

A GROUP of wounded service personnel who took the West End by storm in January with the play *The Two Worlds of Charlie F*, will bring their true stories of conflict and recovery to audiences at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

The Bravo 22 Company will perform in the city for four performances (July 19-21) before heading to Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August and returning to the West End. The Royal British Legion-backed production won standing ovations at The Theatre Royal Haymarket in January.

The project has been supported by top director Trevor Nunn, actor Ray Winstone, and patron General Sir David Richards, Chief of Defence Staff.

thechronicle

Bill for agency staff is soaring at hospital

Down Under jobs fair



Dreaming of a new start in Australia – David and Sian Temple with advisor Justin Taylor at the Australian jobs fair held at Walsall College

A JOBS fair highlighting vacancies available in Australia attracted dozens of people to Walsall College.

The event was held at Jerome's Restaurant last week and staff from Jobcentre Plus handed out information about the vacancies on offer Down Under, including jobs for hair-

dressers, mechanics and drivers. It was held in collaboration with recruitment consultants Sunbright and Unified Sourcing.

Information about immigration rules and visa opportunities were given and groups listened to presentations on life in Australia.

THE WAGE bill for agency staff at Walsall Manor Hospital soared by £171,000 a month in little more than a year. Spending on them climbed to more than £500,000 in May.

The figures were revealed in a report being presented to the board of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

The trust's total outlay on temporary workers, including a pool of staff called in to cover shortages, was £1.23m for the month. That figure was around 10 per cent of the month's total wage bill of £11.9m.

The £500,635 expenditure on agency workers was up from around £329,000 in April 2011, and comes despite a recruitment drive for permanent staff.

Scrutiny

Councillor Doug James, who sits on the health scrutiny panel at Walsall Council, said: "Having increasing costs for agency staff is a huge concern."

"What we want to see on the wards is staff teams working closely together and having agency staff may not be the best way to ensure that going forward."

"We understand that when the hospital desperately needs staff, because of sickness absence for example, they may need to use agency staff."

"But we would much prefer to see a planned recruitment process making use of local talent."

Talk on the canals

AN insight into Walsall's historic network of canals will be given during a talk at the town's main museum on Tuesday by historian and author Ray Shill.

The free talk is taking place at Walsall Museum from 2pm but places are limited. Book on (01922) 653116.

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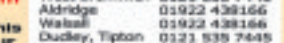
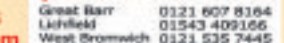
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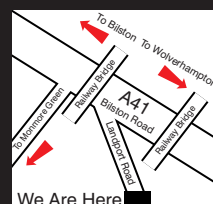
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The show must go on at carnival celebrations

THOUSANDS of revellers turned out for Pelsall Carnival after organisers decided the show must go on despite wet conditions.

The sodden grounds at Pelsall Common meant part of the site could not be used, so stalls, activities and shows had to be packed tightly together.

People armed with umbrellas lined streets in the village to see the carnival parade pass by on Saturday afternoon.

Carnival queen Kathryn Cox, aged 22, of Oak Road, sat on top of a float leading the procession, which was decorated with flowers, garlands and streamers.

A total of 13 floats, including one with a glam rock theme made by Pelsall's Ryders Hayes School, were in the procession and a marching band from the Air Training Corps in Aldridge also took part.

Determined

The carnival celebrated its 40th consecutive year and provided entertainment such as dog shows, Zumba and gymnastics displays. More than 100 stalls were laid out.

Ian Rhydderch, secretary of Pelsall Carnival Committee, which organised the event, said: "Everyone desperately hoped the event wouldn't be cancelled due to the weather. We were determined for it to go on and it went quite well."

"The weather was reasonably kind to us, despite a bit of rain. There was a record number of floats in the procession this year."

"It was much better than when we were making the preparations on Friday."

"The showground was 60 per cent of the size it should have been because of the weather. We didn't want anyone to get bogged down but there were a couple of cars that got stuck and needed pulling out of the mud."



Back to the carnival's first year 1972 as the Ryders Hayes School float remember the days of glam rock



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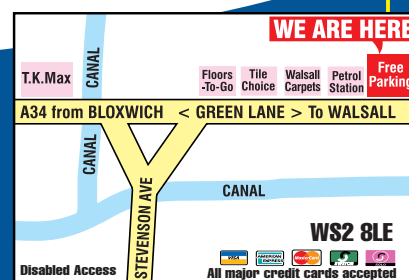
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**thechronicle****LETTERS**

The rot at the top may be reason for 'Broken Britain'

WHAT a calamitous few years it has been. All the great institutions in this country which we held dear and gave us a sense of pride and even of superiority over our European neighbours, perhaps unjustified, have come crashing down.

Westminster, regarded as one of the great parliamentary democracies now seriously sullied by self-serving politicians. The press, viewed as the home of good journalism and a defender of freedoms, has been mired in shabby scandal. The Anglican Church, with its quintessential Englishness, setting a moral and harmonious tone for the nation, has made itself ridiculous and irrelevant with interminable squabbling on gender and sexuality issues.

The armed forces, that enabled Britain to maintain its Empire and

global trading position, are being emasculated by ill-informed politicians, already shown to be incompetent.

Finally the banking sector, that powerful bastion of propriety, which gave Britain a reputation of being above corruption in business, has been exposed as deeply dishonest.

Disillusionment

All these pillars of our society crumbling in such a short time. These are sorry times in deed.

Where are the statesmen we need to give a restored sense of purpose and national renewal?

With such trauma and disillusionment in the nation it is surprising that we will not be heading for a collective mental breakdown. Are these collapses of long established and agents of stabil-

ity, perhaps the reasons for the social and moral decay so evident in the country, the causes of 'broken Britain'?

There is one glimmer of light for our salvation. British manufacturing and industry has kept its head down and nose to the grindstone, no more so than in the West Midlands. Despite having to battle against politicians and a finance sector often unsympathetic to it and at times working against it, it has kept going. Although only a rump of its former self, it is this sector that will drag us back. They need all the support they can get. First up must be a state-owned bank for providing finance to this sector, as is done in Germany.

RUSSELL ARMITAGE
Manorhouse Close
Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor**POST**

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

walsall.chronicle@
expressandstar.co.uk

Taking bus off Field Lane would result in many losing a lifeline

FAR be it from me to advise Pelsall ward Tory councillors about how they conduct their affairs, but Councillor Longhi does need to be aware that, in backing a group of Field Lane residents who want the 89 bus out of 'their' road (Chronicle, July 4), if his and their efforts are successful, then the consequences will be:

Large numbers of his own constituents in Fordbrook Lane, Mill Road, West Way and - yes! - in Field Lane itself will be robbed of recently restored access to a good bus service that others (such as many of my constituents in a whole swathe of Rushall) can only dream of.

Hundreds of other bus users and would-be bus users right across High Heath, many of them elderly and/or less able, will lose the lifeline of a decent bus service, which residents fought hard for and eventually got.

If what Councillor Longhi and his two ward colleagues stand for is worsening access to bus services in High Heath, on the pretext that Field Lane is unsuitable for buses, maybe they should have included this as a pledge in their recent successful local election campaign in Pelsall ward?

RICHARD WORRALL
Labour Councillor
Rushall-Shelfield Ward

Rail service not given a chance

I SEE Centro are calling for the Government to set aside funds to promote services within the West Midlands. Sounds like a good idea.

There are still many of us left who some years ago campaigned vigorously for a train service between Walsall and Wolverhampton. Eventually we got one but only for a short time. It was withdrawn on the basis that it was not profitable. I consider the principle reason for this was the infrequency and unreliability of the service. There was also a need for wider publicity and time for the service to become bedded in.

The tram/train idea would seem to overcome some of the problems. Perhaps Centro could start a wider campaign to get public support for the concept. What do readers think?

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Housing plan for the site of Victorian school

Exports boost steel firm



Managing director Tarlok Singh at Acenta Steel based in Willenhall

WILLENHALL based Acenta Steel's is going from strength to strength. The company's turnover has grown from £55 million in 2009 to £95m in 2011.

Chief executive Tarlok Singh said its increasing turnover by 72 per cent over the period had largely been built on exports.

Exports are now 55 per cent of the turnover with the European Union countries and North America the main markets.

Owners

The company has also made multi-million investments following a major re-organisation that saw it adopt the name Acenta from January last year when new owners, private equity business Endless,

came in. Mr Singh said it was previously called Niagra and before that was part of the Glynwed operation.

"We have a rich history as a business. Our Brierley Hill hot rolling site has been in existence since 1865.

"We have now rebranded the business and created a new model under one name rather than as several different business names," he added.

The group, which has its head office at Planetary Road, processes more than 90,000 tonnes of steel a year and has more than 5,000 customers around the world.

The number employed by Acenta, which specialises in the processing and distribution of high quality engineering grade steel bars, has also increased by a fifth since 2009, from 289 to 345.

A FORMER school in Walsall Wood which has been empty for years is to be demolished to make way for housing.

The old St John's School buildings in Walsall Wood will be cleared for homes in plans lodged with Walsall Council.

The site has been derelict for around a decade and a scheme for 12 houses has now been put forward for the site off the main Lichfield Road. Previous proposals for apartments stalled and the latest scheme has been scaled back.

The scheme involves pulling down the Victorian school building and neighbouring empty bungalow.

Condemned

The school building was surveyed in 2003 and condemned as unsafe for conversion.

The original proposals in 2008 were to build 22 apartments but the new scheme is for three-bedrooms homes with up to 24 parking spaces.

The application has been lodged with council planners. A decision will be made by the planning committee or by officers under delegated powers.

A statement in support of the application has been lodged with the authority. Doug Eburah, on behalf of the agents Rush Davis Chartered Architects, said: "Slight improvement in demand for houses has sparked tentative interest in the site resulting in this application."

Bouncy fun at fair

A SUMMER fair is being held at a Walsall school on Saturday. It has been organised by the parents, teachers and friends of St Michael's Primary School in Maple Road, Pelsall. The fair on Saturday will feature attractions including a bouncy castle, stalls and face painting. Gates open at noon.

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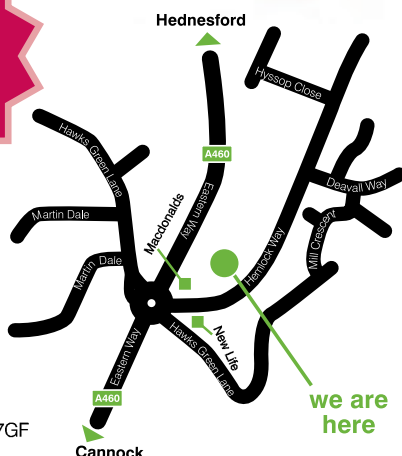


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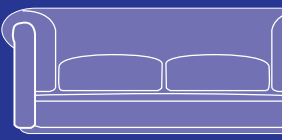
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Real or fake gun? Firearm police decide at 50 yards



An example of a potentially lethal "homemade" firearm AN AK47, an Uzi and an exact replica of the handgun used by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein - these are just some of the guns lurking in the West Midlands Police's weapons store.

A myriad of fierce firearms that have been seized by or surrendered to the force are contained within the unit - based at a secret location in the region. But despite the thousands of weapons stacked-up on dozens of racks, gun crime across the West Midlands is on the decline.

Last year, only 94 firearms believed to have been used in crime were actually seized by the force.

The difficulty for firearms officers faced with making life or death decisions is how to know whether the weapon they are faced with is real. The range of guns they come across require the need for the force to keep the thousands of deactivated firearms in the weapons store for training purposes. But it has emerged that imitation guns, easily sought for just a few pounds from a variety of websites, could lead to as disastrous a conclusion as the real thing.

Holding two handguns - one fake and one real despite being almost identical in sight and weight - police trainer Pc Rob Pedley, a former firearms officer for 11 years, described the difficulty officers face.

"You have to very quickly assess the situation and decide what the correct response is," he said. "It's very difficult to know whether a firearm someone is in possession of is genuine or an imitation, and it is even more difficult when think about the fact that it could be pitch black and the person holding that weapon could 50 yards or more away."

What the force is able to do to help ensure officers make the correct decision in such situations is train them to the highest possible standard.

Fitness

More than 200 officers applied to join the firearms unit earlier this year. A medical, gruelling fitness test, basic gun handling assessment and scenario-based examinations saw that number whittled down to 24. Only 12 progress to the tactical stages of the course which includes exercises on location across the region.

It is about 15 years since the last fatal shooting by the unit, when an officer opened fire on a robber who was holding a Birmingham supermarket manager at knifepoint.

The officer required to pull the trigger that day fronts a sobering presentation during the course describing his emotions on having to take someone's life.

Chief Inspector Paul Minor, head of the force's Firearms Unit, said: "The perception of firearms units may be weapons and fast cars - but in reality it can be a lonely place."

"Take this scenario: you've been called to a potential firearms incident at 3am, very low light, when someone appears from the shadows, sees you and reaches inside their jacket pocket. Are they reaching for a gun? If you see a weapon can you be sure it's a genuine threat or a replica?"

"Sometimes officers need to make split-second decisions... and decisions that could have catastrophic consequences. Our officers are trained to an exceptionally high standard by experts with many years firearms tactical experience; that's why I'm confident that in the vast majority of incidents they will make the right decision."

In the past year 115 people in the West Midlands were injured in firearms incidents over the past year. Figures show there were 18 firearms incidents in Wolverhampton, 12 in Sandwell and nine each in Walsall and Dudley during that period.

While firearms officers were deployed to the streets to help keep the peace, others work with youngsters to warn them of the stark dangers of gun crime. Pc Pedley runs the force's Guns & Knives Take Lives scheme, which in the past two years has reached almost 15,000 children, aged from 11 upwards.

"It is well received," he said. "Some cry, some are shocked. If it stops just one young person from associating with gangs, guns or knives then it is all worth it."



Civilian firearms inquiry officer Neil Corlett checks through the arsenal of seized weapons

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Wanted – a Torchbearer to light up life of others

A GREAT Wyrley student became the envy of many a teenage girl when she got to carry the Olympic Torch with boyfriend The Wanted.

However, Hannah Jukes and her pals were even more stunned when the heart-throbs turned up at one of their homes on the day of the relay.

Hannah, aged 17, was chosen along with friends Paige Cockayne, Thomas Preece and Sammy-jo Rowson, from Maddison's Dancing and Cheerleading school in Sheffield, to run with the Flame through Great Wyrley and Newtown.

"It was really amazing to run with The Wanted," said Hannah, whose favourite of the quintet is Nathan Sykes.

"On the morning we were told to meet at Paige's house in Pelsall to go down to the meeting point together. Then The Wanted just appeared," she added.

Memories

Hundreds of well-wishers lined the streets as Hannah and co joined the chart-toppers as Torchbearers – and each ran 60 metres with the Flame.

The Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School pupil is now taking her cuttings, photos – and memories of the day – on her latest mercy mission to South Africa.

As part of Link4Life, a church and schools project in Great Wyrley and Chelsyn Hay, Hannah is part of a team that helps deprived children in the townships.

She leaves this week for her second visit, after first undertaking the project two years ago.

There, she will help to provide home-based care for families that, because of Aids, are predominantly child-led, giving the stricken youngsters basic care as well a food, support, shelter, education – and above all, hope.

Yet, until starting dance classes, Hannah, who lives in Norton Canes, was low on self-esteem, having struggled at school because of dyslexia.



Hannah Jukes, aged 17, with her Olympic Torch



Hannah Jukes, left, runs the Torch relay alongside The Wanted

She has since built on that extra confidence and is now studying for A-Level in English, psychology, sociology and media. It is a story that gives hope and inspiration to many.

Hannah said carrying the Olympic Torch and meeting The Wanted had been like a dream come true and now hopes her lead can set an example to others.

"My message would be just don't give up, because the only person you are giving up on is yourself," she said.

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TRAVEL

A resort beyond pier

SOUTHPORT boasts the oldest iron pier in the UK and it is the country's second longest (after Southend), which you will well believe after the bracing 1,216 yard walk to its slot machines at the end.

But don't expect to hear the waves lapping beneath your feet, the tidal range of the Irish Sea here is so massive that you may have to peer from the end of the pier to see the white-topped breakers in the distance.

However, that does mean one heck of a big beach, that gives the locals their nickname of Sandgrounders. And if you don't fancy the long walk back, there is a pier tram or, for the less self-conscious, a toy town train.

Fifteen miles north of Liverpool and just over two hours by car from the West Midlands, Southport has given itself the title England's Classic Resort. It does have Victorian elegance alongside the bucket-and-spade trappings.

The long, tree-lined and flower-festooned Lord Street is said to have inspired the boulevards of Paris. The future Napoleon III of France did spend time in exile in Southport before his triumphant return to Paris, where he cleared medieval streets to make way for wide tree-lined thoroughfares.

Lord Street has lots of



From pier to eternity – Southport's pier is the UK's second longest at 1,216 yards



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Plenty of retail therapy opportunities on Southport's long Lord Street with its elegant Victorian arcades

30,000ft over two floors. The oldest part of Southport, Churchtown, pre-dates the resort and its thatched cottages have been turned into tea rooms, restaurants and independent shops. Nearby is the restful Botanic Gardens including an unusual, grotto-like Victorian fernery.

Tattoo

The receding coastline means the town's Promenade is now alongside the large saltwater Marine Lake, on which a Mississippi style paddle boat cruises.

New land on the seafront

has been turned into charming parkland and retail/leisure park Ocean Plaza, including a modern cinema and ten pin bowling. Probably the town's most unusual attraction is the Tattoo Museum on Princes Street. More than 5,000 tattoo artefacts are crammed into a working tattoo artist's shop, including the earliest machines and designs dating back to Victorian times. Because they own the designs, they can give you one of those vintage tattoos.

The success of Sefton's golf coast – five champi-

onship links courses within a 10 minute drive – has seen the arrival of new hotels, including the four star Ramada Plaza Southport.

It is part of an imposing modern lakeside complex on The Promenade, including the town's main theatre and conference centre.

There are more than 100 restaurants, cafes and tea rooms in Southport. I can recommend French style bistro Auberge and Spanish tapas restaurant Finos at the Waterfront.

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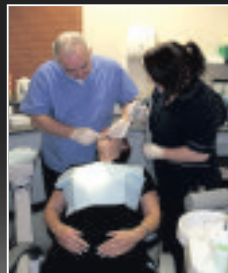
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Rent fees waived for traders who lost pitch

Arboretum anglers



Anglers Ray Ebanks, Dave Gough and Craig Taylor promote the Vic Lees Memorial fishing competition in Walsall

AN ANNUAL fishing competition in memory of a popular angler will be taking place in Walsall this weekend.

The annual Vic Lees Memorial contest will be held at the main Walsall Arboretum lake on Saturday.

Keen fisherman Vic used to work at steel firm Corus and anglers turn

out in force for the competition in his memory each year. It is in recognition of his efforts to encourage youngsters to take up the pastime.

This year's contest draw will take place at 8am at the Arboretum Palm House building. Fishing on the lake will run from 9am until 2pm with an entry fee of £6.50. To book a place call 07736 388405.

ALMOST £1,000 was waived in rent fees for town centre market traders who had to move from their pitches when the Olympic Flame passed through Walsall.

Bosses at Walsall Market said they had accepted the authority's offer of two days free rent for affected stallholders, but had hoped for twice as much compensation.

Tony Lerner, chairman of the Market Traders Association, said trade had been "hit and miss" on June 30 when around 20 stalls had to be moved from around The Bridge for the occasion.

Traders had previously raised concerns they stood to lose "substantial" amounts of money on what was to be one of the busiest days in the town centre for years.

Mr Lerner said: "We have accepted what has been given to us but we wanted two extra Saturdays free rent."

"We were just trying to cover a loss of earnings."

Struggled

"For some, it was very quiet on June 30 because they didn't have their usual customers. Some did well, others struggled. It was hit and miss."

Mandy Dean, who runs Lunnons Fruit and Veg with her brother Jason Stevens, was one the traders forced to move for safety reasons when the torch came to the borough.

The 44-year-old had been disappointed with her day's trade when the town centre had been "absolutely rammed".

A total of 14 traders were offered free rent to set up a pitch on Saturday, amounting to a saving of £840.

Optician expansion

AN OPTICIANS in Walsall has put forward expansion plans which will create new jobs.

Pleck Eyecare Centre wants to create a single storey side extension and has lodged proposals for the site in Wednesbury Road, Pleck, is to be considered by planners.

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thechronicle

Here's to a classic send-off

A HUSBAND and wife team have come up with a novel way for relatives of car enthusiasts to say goodbye to their loved ones.

Cannock couple Andrew and Judith Bywater have converted a Morris Minor Traveller into a hearse to offer a fitting final journey for fans of the iconic British motor.

The Morris Minor Hearse Company was set up by the couple at the end of last year after they restored the Traveller so it could carry a coffin.

Calling their car Trudy – as its customary for Morris Minors to be given a female name – it took Andrew two-and-a-half years to complete her transformation ready for her launch at last year's NEC Classic Car show.

The idea started after they restored another Morris Minor and started using it for weddings in 2000 – and it became so popular they restored another one so it could carry the bridesmaids too.

But with Judith, 47, working as an organist at Stafford Crematorium, they began to see they could diversify.

She said: "About three years ago we bought the other car as we wanted to make our business more diverse."

Feelings

"I went over the idea with people I knew and asked them their feelings about it and they gave us plenty of support."

"Often people have great interest in classic cars and so for them to then have their final journey in one can be something relatives like the idea of as it suits their personality."

So far the couple have done 214 weddings and one funeral – but have had a lot of interest since they launched last year.

Andrew, aged 53, said: "The funeral we did was in Streetly and we got some excellent feedback about it as his family said he loved Morris Minors but had never owned a Traveller."

"So they were very happy with how we could help."

Andrew has been a Morris Minor enthusiast since 1993 when he



Andrew and Judith Bywater with the Morris Minor converted into a hearse began re-storing one. Trudy was built and registered in 1965 and she was supplied by Colmore Depot, based at West Bromwich. But she gradually became run-down through daily use, until Andrew bought her as a complete wreck in 2009. The couple drive the vehicle for a funeral up to 60 miles from Cannock and the coffin fits neatly beside the driver in the passenger side. Call 07530771316, visit www.morrisminorhearse.co.uk or email Mr Bywater at andrew@morrisminorhearse.co.uk

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thechronicle

Mother pens story of baby's survival battle

A MOTHER from Hednesford who kept a journal about her premature baby daughter's battle for survival has turned her experience into a book.

Becky Meechan hopes her words in My Bubble Wrap Girl: Sofia's Story will help to raise awareness of premature births.

The 38-year-old gave birth at 24 weeks to Sofia Vercesi in February 2009. The baby weighed just 1lb 8oz.

Sofia was born at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, but was not expected to live. Among the many complications the infant suffered were oxygen starvation, a bleed on the brain and heart problems which required major surgery at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

She spent a total of four months in hospital, during which Becky kept a journal.

It also led to struggles of her own for Becky. Because of Sofia's premature arrival, Becky had to give up her

£27,000-a-year job as a forensic scientist through ill health.

That in turn led to her losing her house and having to declare herself bankrupt.

Her relationship with partner Steve was also tested to the limit due because of the pressures they were under and eventually, just after Christmas 2010, she suffered a breakdown, which she attributed, in part, to a lack of support given to parents in her situation.

Becky, of Mary Street, Hednesford, is

much stronger today but us still receiving counselling. She said: "I'm not sure what I expected when I began keeping my journal."

Becky Meechan who has written a book about her daughter Sofia's fight for life

shiver down my spine." She added: "I want to encourage the medical community to provide the emotional support that is so desperately needed for a parent facing the potential death of their precious child."

Becky has signed a contract with an American company which requires her to sell the first 100 books and has so far found 67 buyers. To buy it online visit: http://sbpra.com/rebecca_meechan/

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Becky has signed a contract with an American company which requires her to sell the first 100 books and has so far found 67 buyers. To buy it online visit: http://sbpra.com/rebecca_meechan/

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Tribute to a brave war veteran who deserved better at the end

THE EIGHT medals hang proudly in the display cabinet alongside a picture of Bill Davis as a young man.

They chart the courageous life under fire of a Second World War hero who rapidly rose through the ranks from rating to Petty Officer.

Mr Davis saw action at the Dunkirk evacuation and was involved in the relief of Malta while serving with distinction throughout Europe and beyond.

He was 150 miles off the coast of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima but returned home unscathed.

Years on he was to die after being attacked at his home in Willenhall on April 1, four days after his 92nd birthday.

His son Tom, a 56-year-old project manager living in Wolverhampton, said: "He went to all those dangerous places and came back without a scratch - then somebody goes and kills him in his own back room. It is heartbreaking."

"He never spoke a lot about his war service. The details came out in dribs and drabs over the years but the medals speak for themselves. He was a hero who deserved a lot better end to his life."

Mr Davis was born in Portobello in 1920 and claimed to have started work at a foundry an hour after leaving school at 14.

Dignity

He later became a metal polisher with lock makers Josiah Parkes at their Union Street site in Willenhall where he met his wife-to-be Clara.

Mr Davis signed up in 1939 and remained in the Navy until after the war, leaving in 1955. He and Clara married on July 7, 1943, and the couple had been married for 63 years when she died, aged 88, in 2006. They had two children although their daughter Heather died two

years after her mother, aged 61. They had four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His son said: "He was a good father who never swore in front of me or my mother."

"He had tremendous dignity, was generous to a fault and would have given me his last sixpence."

As a result of his service during the war he was awarded the 39-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Africa Star, the Burma Star with Pacific Bar, the Italy Star, the War Medal, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Soviet Anniversary Medal.

Mr Davis returned to his job at Josiah Parkes after leaving the Navy and went on to work with other firms before joining Willenhall Locks where he worked for about 30 years. He was a devoted Wolves fan, had been a keen tennis player, loved his garden and retired aged 72.

He had lived at the semi-detached house in Hobley Street, Willenhall, for 33 years fiercely independent despite needing a stick or frame to help him walk.

His son said: "He was a real gentleman but did not suffer fools lightly. He worked hard all his life and loved his family."

"Everybody thought that he would not last six months when my mum died. When my sister died soon afterwards I thought that would be it but he had seemed to be one of life's survivors. My wife always said that he would outlive us."

by John Scott



Bill is third, from the right on the front row, pictured passing out in 1939



His son Tom Davis with his father Bill's cap



Bill's calendar with the day he died unmarked



Veteran Bill and his late wife Clara



A frame with Bill's war medals

More delays due to road resurfacing

MOTORISTS will face another week of delays and diversions during carriage-way resurfacing work in Willenhall.

A road closure will be in place along Pooles Lane towards the junction with Wood Lane and Lichfield Road.

Essential road maintenance works will be taking place until Friday, July 20, with restrictions between 9am and 4pm.

A signed diversion route will be in operation along Bloxwich Road North, Coltham Road, Wesley Road, Cannock Road and Lichfield Road.

Just right for a cup of cha-cha

ANYONE who would like to step out for twirl around the dancefloor can head to the weekly tea dances held at the ballroom in Bilston Town Hall.

With music from city organist Steve Tovey, the dances are held every Thursday from 1.15pm to 3.30pm. Admission is £2.50 including a free prize draw.

Rap at cinema

AMERICAN rapper Ice-T will be answering questions live via satellite after a screening of his new documentary at the Showcase Cinema, in Bentley Mill Way.

It screens Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap on Thursday, July 19, at 9pm.

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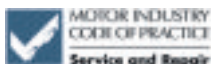
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A mid life crisis...

We moved into a new home 6 weeks ago; I heard a voice say 'yay' (it was my voice), then 6 weeks later 'arhhhh' that same voice said. Renovating a 300 year old cottage at 50, I must want my bumps feeling. It will be fine just look to the finished result she says.

We work in Willenhall and most of what you need is right here on our doorstep, Carpets shops, kitchens and bathroom shops, Camberley Curtains and Blinds (which we own by the way). Most of the local businesses are more than helpful and they and us put our selves out to make sure that you get exactly the right look that suits you. Helping people get over the panic of getting there finished look just right has been a passion that has never left us. Will this passion still be there at the end of possibly 2 years of builders dust and should it be Mauve or cerise curtains.

So here goes the journey of Wayside Cottage and the gentle opening of Kev's wallet and many visits to our local shops in Willenhall.

Camberley Curtains are really happy to have been a part of (we complained enough) getting Willenhall Chronicle back into circulation.

Tina Noon (Camberley Curtains & Blinds).

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thechronicle

Jessie J to be queen of castle



Jessie J performing at Shrewsbury on Friday

BRITAIN'S brightest pop star of 2012, Jessie J, will be performing in front of 20,000 of her Midlands fans at Warwick Castle tomorrow night (Friday).

Last Friday Jessie J wowed 11,000 Shropshire fans at Shrewsbury's main park, The Quarry, with a 75-minute set including her hits Price Tag, Do It Like A Dude and Domino. At the time of going to Press, some tickets were still available for the Summer Sound concert at the castle.

Tickets

It will see The Voice star supported by up-and-coming pop singers. These include Gary Barlow's 17-year-old prodigy A*M*E (aka Amy Kabbal).

Tickets cost £32.50 plus booking fee. For details see www.warwick-castle.com/concerts or call 0844 581 0752. Gates open at 6pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm.

The second Summer Sounds concert on Saturday at the castle features the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with the chart-topping Military Wives choir. Tickets cost £34 or £10 for children aged four to 16.

Council sorry over Twitter minister jibe



The controversial tweet on Walsall Council Twitter feed **WALSALL Council** has apologised after an officer "accidentally" posted a message on its official Twitter account mocking the Conservative Education Secretary Michael Gove.

The message posted on Saturday evening included a link to a picture of Lord Charles, the dummy of ventiloquist Ray Alan, and then ended with #saveusfromtheposhboys, which was added by whoever had accessed the council account. Using a "s" before a word means Twitter users can click on it to see other messages about the same subject.

The message was deleted after Twitter users complained. The council claimed its account had been hacked, but its Conservative leader has said the official will be "chastised".

The council wrote on Twitter: "It appears our account has been hacked. We apologise for any offence from earlier tweets. This matter is now the subject of an internal investigation."

Tory MP Louise Mensch, a member of the Commons culture, media and sport committee, accused the council of trying to cover its tracks.

Removed

She wrote: "Who wakes up in the morning and thinks 'I know! I'll hack Walsall Council's Twitter account'? Tell the truth, who posted that?"

Council leader Mike Bird said: "I am very annoyed by what has happened."

"This tweet was removed as soon as we were made aware, and we immediately tweeted a full apology."

"The offending tweet was live for around 20 minutes until it was taken down."

"Our first reaction was that we were hacked but our findings over the weekend indicate that an individual within the communications team had accidentally tweeted from the council account they had access to."

He added: "The individual will be suitably chastised."

6,000 mile journey for Samaritan

VOLUNTEERS from Walsall branch of the Samaritans are preparing for the arrival of David Exley, a Samaritan volunteer, who is motorcycling around the UK and Ireland to raise awareness of the charity. Covering more than 6,000 miles on his motorbike, he will visit each of the 201 branches and will be welcomed in Walsall on July 27 around 4.15pm to be welcomed with a cream tea at the Bott Lane HQ.

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Staffords in action in Basra in 2006/07



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Staffords saw action in Iraq in 2005



Regiment founder Colonel Lillington



South Staffordshire Regiment cap badge



The famous Staffordshire Knot badge

Famous Army regiment that fought to the end

A CHERISHED military bond forged in the Kings Head pub in Lichfield 307 years ago has been broken. The fighting force formed during a meeting on March 25, 1705, linked the army to the people of the Black Country and Staffordshire.

For three centuries, generations served with distinction on the world's battlefields in what became known as the Staffordshire Regiment.

The courage of those soldiers is remembered in memorials such as the frieze at Walsall Town Hall commemorating the breaking of the Hindenburg Line on September 30 1918, a vital step towards the ending of the First World War.

The Staffords were the only British battalion to be awarded two Victoria Crosses in the same engagement during the Second World War and the bravery of its troops continued through the Northern Ireland conflict to the Iraq War where they helped free 127 prisoners and destroy the



by John Scott

hated Jamiat police base in Basra on Christmas Day 2006.

The two VCs won by the Staffords in the Second World War were won at Arnheim in September 1944 by Lance Sgt John Baskfield and Major Robert Cain, whose daughter is married to TV host Jeremy Clarkson. Both were serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment which merged with the North Staffords to form the Staffords in 1959.

Another Staffords hero was L/Cpl Coltman from Burton on Trent who did not carry a weapon because he was a Quaker but operated as a stretcher bearer and won the VC, the DSM and Bar and the Military Medal and Bar, being awarded the five medals for his bravery in collecting casualties over 17 months during the First

World War. He survived conflict. The name of the Staffordshire Regiment and its famous Staffordshire Knot cap badge disappeared during the 2007 revamp of the army that created the Mercian Regiment through the merger of the Cheshire and the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters regiments with the Staffords.

They were then split into three separate battalions on the lines of the previous regiments and the 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (3Mercian) became the new Staffords. Now 3Mercian is to be axed in another restructuring of the British Army. 3Mercian returned from a tour of duty on the front line in Afghanistan last year during which one of its soldiers was shot dead while on patrol and several others were wounded.

The battalion is among a handful of mechanised infantry units in the British Army with its troops trained to use Warrior vehicles as well as conventional 'light' infantry skills.

● All pictures courtesy of the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, Whittington Barracks.



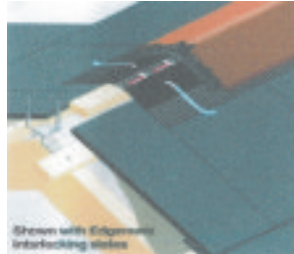
Staffords hero LCpl W Coltman



A 38th foot Crimean War veteran

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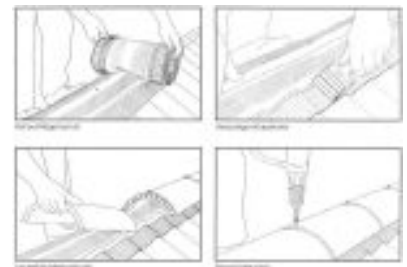
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thechronicle

Look Who is going to face a Final Test at the Grand

FORMER Doctor Who Colin Baker admits it will not be too much of a stretch to play an opinionated, pedantic stick-in-the-mud in new comedy play *The Final Test*, which opens at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday for a five-day run.

In Chris Paling's play he has the role of Peter, who spends his summer dozing or reading the newspaper in the garden whilst listening to his beloved Test Match cricket. He is oblivious to everything else, including the fact that his wife is leaving him and selling their Bexhill-on-Sea home. When new owners move in they find they have an elderly squatter in their garden.

Cricket

Asked if he identified with the character, the actor said: "Yes, quite a lot. We are both stubborn, like cricket, crosswords and it could be said housework is not my thing."

Colin Baker was the sixth incarnation of the Time Lord, in the mid-1980s, and remains popular with fans of the TV series (known as Whovians).

"There are often some Whovians in the audience, usually young men, and often they have never been to the theatre before and they enjoy the experience," he added.



Former Doctor Who Colin Baker gets ready to be stubborn and grumpy at the Grand in comedy *The Final Test*

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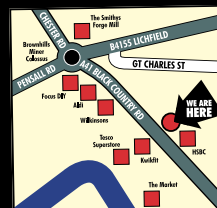
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SATURDAY'S TV 14.07.12

CHOICE



Davina McCall

The Million Pound Drop Live
Channel 4, 9pm
As ever, Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but where they can just as easily walk away with nothing. They are challenged to place large quantities of the cash over tripods and face a series of questions, with wrong answers losing them money every time they slip up. Celebrity pairs also compete for their chosen charities during the series, but it's those ordinary folk who can see their chance of a life-saving sum disappearing before their eyes, that make this programme must-watch TV.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Cash in the Attic. (R) **1.30** British Olympic Dreams. Featuring British athletes tipped for success at London 2012. **2.00** Live Athletics: London Grand Prix. **5.00** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.10** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
6.30 **Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.** (1984) The archaeologist travels to India, where he battles to retrieve sacred stones in the possession of an evil cult. Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford and Kate Capshaw.
8.20 **The National Lottery: Secret Fortune.** Siblings Zoe and Ronnie compete in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take their mother on a trip to Las Vegas.
9.10 **Casualty.** The ED staff deal with a potentially fatal application of force by police officers, who use a stun gun on an ex-con during a domestic incident. Guest starring Natalie Gavin.
10.00 BBC News: Weather.
10.20 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Dermot gets cold feet in the run-up to his wedding. (R)
10.50 **Live at the Apollo.** Sarah Millican hosts, with Russell Kane and Steve Hughes. (R) National Lottery Update.
11.35 **Film: Arlington Road.** (1999) Thriller, starring Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins.
1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third round at Castle Stuart in Inverness, as the players try to move up the leaderboard and put themselves in contention for the title. **5.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit to the platoon. Vintage comedy, starring John Le Mesurier and Arthur Lowe. (R)
8.00 **The Hollow Crown - Henry IV Part 2.** As an uprising against the monarch gathers momentum, the Lord Chief Justice urges Prince Hal to leave London and support his father. Starring Tom Hiddleston and Simon Russell Beale.
10.00 **QI.** Stephen Fry is joined by Bill Bailey, Eddie Izzard, Danny Baker and regular panellist Alan Davies, who answer questions on the topic of home and house. (R)
10.30 **TOTP2.** Mark Radcliffe introduces performances by KC and the Sunshine Band, Everything But the Girl, the Jam, Robert Palmer, Neneh Cherry and Jilted John. (R)
11.30 **Film: The Painted Veil.** (2006) An English doctor in 1920s China takes his unfaithful wife on a dangerous journey to a remote village ravaged by disease. Period drama, starring Edward Norton and Naomi Watts.
1.25 **Film: Summer Hours.** (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Juliette Binoche, Charles Berling and Jeremie Renier. **3.05** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** You've Been Framed! (R) **12.50** **Film: Brewster's Millions.** (1985) **2.45** **Film: Live and Let Die.** (1973) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** Primeval.
6.30 **You've Been Framed!** A dog that can open a fridge. (R)
7.00 **The Cube.** Phillip Schofield invites 5,000m world champion Mo Farah to take on a series of fiendishly difficult challenges inside the cube in the hope of winning a £250,000 charity jackpot.
8.00 **Superstar.** The 30 hopefuls are invited to perform at Andrew Lloyd Webber's Majarcan villa, and the 20 most impressive then compete to win a place in his final 10. Continues tomorrow.
9.00 **The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single.** The countdown enters the top 40 as Fearne Cotton continues the search for the UK's best-loved chart-topping singles of the past 60 years. Concludes tomorrow.
10.30 **ITV News: Weather.**
10.45 **Mad Mad World.** With Lisa Snowdon, Gino D'Acampo and Martin Kemp
11.30 **Take Me Out.** A former rocker, a postman, a plumber and an accountant take part. (R)
12.35 **The Store:** ITV News Headlines. **2.40** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Channel 4 Presents - London 2012: Jody Cundy Part III. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Superbike World Championship 2012. (R) **7.05** British F3. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: T4 on the Beach 2012. **9.55** T4: Love Shaft. (R) **10.30** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.55** T4: Revenge. **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** T4: Summer Daze. **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.05 **Channel 4 News.**
6.35 **thought.tv.** Church of England vicar Jenny Thomas explains why she believes women are treated unfairly within the Church.
6.40 **Film: Twilight.** (2008) Teenager Bella moves to a small town to live with her father and embarks on a passionate romance with a vampire. Fantasy love story, with Kristen Stewart.
9.00 **The Million Pound Drop Live.** The Only Way Is Essex stars Joey Essex and Sam Faiers take part in the quiz show, aiming to win up to £1million for their chosen charities. Davina McCall hosts. Last in the series.
10.35 **Film: Scary Movie.** (2000) Terrified teenagers go to ridiculous lengths to avoid being slain by a serial killer in a ghost-like mask. Spoof horror, starring Anna Faris and Shannon Elizabeth.
12.20 **Film: Stop-Loss.** (2008) **2.15** Brain Damage. (R) **2.20** The Million Pound Drop Live. (R) **3.45** This Is Me. (R) **3.50** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.35** Gone Fishing. (R) **4.55** Grudge Match. (R) **5.05** Rescue Remedies. **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Ice Age 4: Movie Special. **10.30** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.45** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.15** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.15** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **1.20** **Film: Murder Ahoy.** (1964) **3.15** **Film: McBride.** The Doctor is Out. Really Out. (2005) **4.55** **Film: The Kentuckian.** (1955)
7.05 **5 News Weekend.**
7.10 **NCIS.** An admiral is found executed by the side of a road, but the agents have trouble ascertaining a motive for his murder. Meanwhile, McGee makes a discovery about his new girlfriend. (R)
8.00 **NCIS.** Tony's former Baltimore PD partner is murdered, raising fears that the port-to-port killer has struck again - until new evidence suggests the crime was the work of a copycat. (R)
9.00 **Big Brother.** Highlights of the most recent goings-on, including the latest eviction from the housemates' point of view.
10.00 **Film: Awake.** (2007) Premiere. A tycoon undergoes an out-of-body experience during surgery and discovers someone is planning to murder him. Thriller, starring Hayden Christensen and Jessica Alba.
11.40 **Forensic Files.** How the latest scientific and forensic techniques can help solve puzzling crimes. (R)
12.10 **SuperCasino.** **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **7.50** Doctor Who Confidential **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** **Film: Good Will Hunting** (1997) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Blue Planet **8.00** Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings **9.00** **Film: Mesrine: Public Enemy Number One** (2008) **11.05** Wonders of the Solar System
ITV2
3.40 The Planet's Funniest Animals **4.05** America's Got Talent **6.55** **Film: Batteries Not Included** (1987) **9.00** **Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious** (2003) **11.10** Celebrity Juice: Girls on Top Special **11.55** Mark Wright's Hollywood Nights
ITV3
3.55 Foyle's War **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis. A businesswoman is bludgeoned to death. Last in the series. **11.00** **Film: Stiff Upper Lips** (1998)
ITV4
2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France **4.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **6.00** 20 Football Transfers That Shocked the World **7.00** **Film: Tour de France Highlights 8.00** **Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike** (1996) **9.45** **Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2010) **11.40** The Big Match Revisited
E4
3.00 Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** **Film: John Tucker Must Die** (2006) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Midnight Beast
Film4
3.00 Doctor Dolittle (1967) **5.50** James Cameron Special **6.00** The Abyss (1989) **8.50** Avatar Special **9.00** Avatar (2009)



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SUNDAY'S TV 15.07.12**CHOICE****Kenneth Branagh****Wallander****BBC1, 9pm**

Wallander is sent to Riga after the disfigured corpses of two men are found on a life raft. However, several incidents make him wonder if his Latvian counterpart, Major Karlis Liepa, may be leaking information to those responsible for the murders. Kenneth Branagh, Soren Malling and Ingeborga Dapkunaite star in a tale written in the early 1990s. The book comments on the unstable political situations faced by former Soviet republics at that time, so it will be interesting to see how this adaptation – made two decades later – handles that aspect of the story.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Super Smart Animals. (R) **4.45** Lifetime. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** World War II Unearthed.

6.30 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team search for treasure at the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich, where items include a rare set of medals and a Lalique glass figure found under a bed. (R)

7.30 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.

8.00 **Countryfile.** Julia Bradbury and John Craven visit Snowdonia, where she tries her hand at scrambling – a combination of walking and rock-climbing – and he explores a rainforest.

9.00 **Wallander.** Two bodies are found on a life raft in Ystad harbour and Wallander investigates, but soon realises the Latvian cop helping him cannot be trusted. Guest starring Soren Malling.

10.30 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.

10.55 **John Bishop's Britain.** The comedian gets funny about animals. (R)

11.40 **Room 101 – Extra Storage.** With John Prescott, Rebecca Front and Micky Flanagan.

12.20 Weatherview. **12.25** Sign Zone. Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. (R) **1.25** Holly City. (R) **2.20** DIY SOS: The Big Build. (R) **3.20** Food Factory. (R) **3.50** Fake Britain. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **12.30** MotoGP. **2.00** Live Golf: Scottish Open. **5.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.

7.30 **Flag III** Will Axon and Thomas Plant examine interesting items in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, including an original Louis Wain picture, a Waterloo bowl and a 19th-century skeleton clock. (R)

8.00 **Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down.** New series. The inner workings of some of the world's biggest machines. Tom Wrigglesworth and Rob Bell watch as a 14-year-old Boeing 747 jumbo jet is taken apart and reassembled.

9.00 **World's Most Dangerous Roads.** Sue Perkins and Liza Tarbuck drive along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a network of roads running through jungles and mountains in Southeast Asia that is littered with unexploded bombs.

10.00 **Mock the Week.** A look back at the week's news, with guests Josh Widdicombe and Miles Jupp joining regulars Hugh Dennis, Andy Parsons and Chris Addison.

10.30 **Line of Duty.** Arnott is convinced Gates played a part in Jackie's disappearance, so the team sets a trap, hoping he will reveal his involvement in covering up the missing woman's crimes. (R)

11.30 **Twenty Twelve.** Someone is caught modifying Olympic starting pistols to fire live rounds. (R)

12.00 **Film:** Irina Palm. (2007) **1.40** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.20** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** **Film:** Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder. (1978) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.20** The Chase. (R)

6.25 **Regional Programme;** Weather.

6.40 **ITV News;** Weather.

7.00 **Emmerdale.** Marlon is devastated to hear what Paddy and Rhona are planning and decides that if they do move away, they must leave Leo with him.

7.30 **Coronation Street.** Peter urges Carla to give him another chance.

8.00 **Superstar.** The 10 finalists compete to win viewers' votes for the first time as judges Andrew Lloyd Webber, Dawn French and Jason Donovan assess their star quality. Continues tomorrow.

9.30 **The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single.** The celebration of the UK's best-loved singles of the past 60 years concludes as Fearnie Cotton reveals which one the public has voted as their favourite. Last in the series.

11.00 **ITV News;** Weather.

11.20 **The Cube.** Current 5,000m world champion Mo Farah takes part. (R)

12.15 Premiership Rugby Series. **1.10** The Store; ITV News Headlines. **3.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.20** Motorsport UK. **5.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** Sali Mali. **6.15** Ironman 2012. **6.40** Canary Wharf Triathlon. **7.10** The Great Swim Series. **8.05** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** **Film:** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) **4.30** Big Dance 2012. **5.30** Three in a Bed. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

6.55 **4thought.tv.** A Catholic woman married to a Church of England priest discusses why she opposes the ordination of female bishops.

7.00 **Deal or No Deal.** Noel Edmonds hosts the game show in which contestants try to guess the values of mystery boxes.

8.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Four dinner-party hosts compete in the Peterborough area, in a week which sees the food being overshadowed by the often fractious relationships between the contestants.

9.00 **Thelma's Gypsy Girls.** Thelma Madine's trainees begin their course in dress-making, but tensions rise as they try to get used to life in a professional workplace.

10.00 **Meeting Ian Brady.** The killer's request to move to a mainstream prison.

11.05 **Film:** Another 48 Hours. (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte.

1.00 Camelot. (R) **1.50** The Moonbird. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R)

4.20 Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Grudge Match. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** Chiro. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R)

8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Mio Mao. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jam. (R)

10.00 Monkey Life. (R) **10.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25** Big Brother. (R) **12.25** Half Baked House. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** **Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. (1987) **4.10** 5 News West. (R) **4.15** **Film:** Surf's Up. (2007) **5.55** **Film:** Maid in Manhattan. (2002)

8.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Emma urges Mary Margaret to co-operate with the investigation so she can prove her innocence – but as the evidence mounts, she wonders if her friend could really be a killer.

9.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights.

10.00 **Film:** Cobra. (1986) Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

11.40 **Film:** Knock Out. (1998) Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

1.30 SuperCasino. **4.05** Sons of Anarchy. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hanna's Hellfire. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL**BBC Three**

7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.35** Shrek: Once Upon A Time **8.35** **Film:** Shrek (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Snog, Marry, Avoid?

BBC Four

7.00 Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes **8.00** Roundhead or Cavalier **9.00** 100 Years of the Palladium **10.00** **Film:** Knuckle (2011) **11.30** Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes

ITV2

2.35 **Film:** Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **4.25** **Film:** The Mummy (1999) **6.50** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** **Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008)

ITV3

3.40 **Film:** Summer Holiday (1963) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Wire in the Blood

ITV4

2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Coverage of stage 14 of the world's most famous cycle race. **4.30** Police, Camera, Action! **5.00** The Professionals **6.00** Tommy Cooper **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Premiership Rugby **9.00** **Film:** Demolition Man (1993) **11.15** **Film:** The Gauntlet (1977)

E4

3.50 Glee **4.50** New Girl **5.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.15** Revenge **7.10** **Film:** Dr Dolittle (1998) **9.00** World's Greatest Body Shockers **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl

Film4

3.10 The Time Machine (1960) **5.20** Titanic (1997) **9.00** Aliens (1986) James Cameron's sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver and Lance Henriksen.



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A large block-paved drive means plenty of parking space at this home

A **FOUR-BEDROOM** extended semi-detached property in the popular residential area of Orchard Hills in Walsall is for sale based on offers around £234,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, sitting/dining room, fitted kitchen with separate utility, playroom and conservatory, downstairs WC, four bedrooms – the master en-suite – family bathroom, block paved driveway, garage and rear garden.

On the ground floor the kitchen, 13ft by 8ft 2in, has a range of wall and base units with contrasting roll edge worktops, one and a half bowl stainless steel sink and drainer with mixer tap, space for range cooker and plumbing for dishwasher.

There is a utility room with roll edge worktop, plumbing for washing machine and space for dryer, and a downstairs WC with toilet and wash hand basin.

Conservatory

The lounge is 20ft 3in by 10ft 2in and has a patio door to the rear garden, while the conservatory – 10ft by 6ft 6in – has French doors to the rear garden, and there is also a study/playroom.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en-suite with freestanding bath, separate walk-in shower cubicle, low level WC and wash hand basin and there are three more bedrooms and a bathroom with corner panelled bath with electric shower over, low level WC and wash hand basin.

The property is set back from the road behind a good sized block paved driveway providing off road parking for several cars and leading to the garage, while the rear garden has a gravelled patio area, lawn, tree and shrub borders with further decked seating area.

Call Henderson Hynes on (01922) 627 100.



The rear of the Orchard Hills property from Henderson Hynes on 01922 627 100



The spacious lounge is well presented with double-glazed windows to the front

AUCTION
MONDAY 16th JULY 2012
7 pm Prompt At
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LOT 1 **GUIDE PRICE: £59,000+**

198A & 198B NORTON EAST ROAD, NORTON CANES
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Ground and first floor flats
- ◆ Good residential area
- ◆ Rear gardens
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed

LOT 2

2 PARKER STREET, BLOXWICH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Double glazing
- ◆ Garage

LOT 3 **GUIDE PRICE: £60,000-£70,000**

FLAT 4 PARK HOUSE, CHOSLEY STONE, RUGLEY
LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Second floor flat
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ All windows double glazed

LOT 4 **GUIDE PRICE: £120,000-£130,000**

6 THORNHILL ROAD, HEDNESFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Three bedroomed detached house
- ◆ Located in popular residential area close to Cannock Chase
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed

LOT 5 **GUIDE PRICE: £180,000+**

THE OLD GOODS YARD, COMMERCIAL WAY, OAKENGATES, TELFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Prominently located detached premises
- ◆ Occupying a good sized irregular shaped site
- ◆ Suitable for redevelopment (Subject to Planning Permission)
- ◆ Most recently used as a retail showroom and store

LOT 6 **GUIDE PRICE: £75,000-£85,000**

56 HIGH STREET, CHASETOWN
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Traditional detached house
- ◆ Requiring some repair and modernisation
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heated

LOT 7

234 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Part renovated dormer bungalow
- ◆ Planning permission for extensions
- ◆ Possibly suitable for redevelopment with two detached houses (Subject to Planning Permission being obtained)

LOT 8 **GUIDE PRICE: £100,000-£120,000**

120 BURNWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached house in need of renovation
- ◆ Occupying plot extending to approx. 0.16 acre
- ◆ Possibly suitable for redevelopment (Subject to Planning Permission being obtained)
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Double glazed

LOT 9 **GUIDE PRICE: £100,000-£120,000**

87 CUMBERLEDGE HILL, CANNOCK WOOD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Most attractive semi detached house
- ◆ In popular residential location
- ◆ Generous plot
- ◆ Benefiting from gas fired central heating and predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of general modernisation and refurbishment

LOT 10

THE PADDOCK, 76A UPPER WAY, UPPER LONDON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Unusually but attractively designed detached bungalow
- ◆ Elevated and sloping site extending to 0.75A acre or thereabouts
- ◆ In need of some modernisation
- ◆ Potential for further development (Subject to Planning Permission)

AUCTION VIEWING TIMES

ADDRESS	Saturday 14th July	Wednesday 11th July
6 Thornhill Road, Hednesford	10.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.
Flat 4 Park House, Chosley Stone, Rugby	10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
76a Upper Way, Upper London	11.15 a.m.	11.15 a.m.
87 Cumberledge Hill, Cannock Wood	12.00 Noon	12.00 Noon
120 Burnwood Road, Norton Canes	12.45 p.m.	12.45 p.m.
198a & 198b Norton East Road, Norton Canes	1.15 p.m.	1.15 p.m.
56 High Street, Chasetown	1.45 p.m.	1.45 p.m.
234 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley	2.30 p.m.	2.30 p.m.
2 Parker Street, Bloxwich	3.15 p.m.	3.15 p.m.
245 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	4.00 p.m.	4.00 p.m.
91 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	4.30 p.m.	4.30 p.m.

NOTE: All viewings undertaken at prospective purchasers own risk. Neither the Agents or the vendors can accept any risk for any injury caused whilst viewing at any property whether or not the property is occupied or unoccupied. When viewing properties please take care when parking so as not to inconvenience adjoining owners and road users. All measurements given are approximate and for guidance purposes only. Successful purchasers will be required to provide proof of identity and address.

LOT 11 **GUIDE PRICE: £240,000-£250,000**

91 OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Two bedroomed detached bungalow
- ◆ Planning Permission for development with two additional detached properties
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Plot extends to approx. 0.38 acre

LOT 12 **GUIDE PRICE: £100,000-£110,000**

245 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Improved well equipped three bedroomed semi detached house
- ◆ Built in popular inter war period
- ◆ In popular residential area of the town
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heating



RICS

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19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 1DG

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Detached family home in Pelsall



Around £275,000 is the asking price for this four bedroom detached family house in Pelsall and the sale is being handled by agents Homepoint

OFFERS in the region of £275,000 are being invited for this four-bedroom family house in Pelsall.

Millers Walk comes recommended for viewing by the agent and presents an opportunity to acquire a well presented detached property in a popular residential location, less than four miles from Walsall Town Centre.

Approach to the entrance is via an asphalt drive leading to a double garage, lawn and side entrance.

The porch features a radiator, ceiling light point and door leading to a study which measures 10ft 2in x 9ft.

There is also a downstairs WC and access to a dining room, lounge and kitchen. Double doors

lead into the dining room 9ft 6in x 13ft, and in the lounge features include a flame-effect gas fire and double-glazed doors leading to the conservatory.

Wardrobes

In the kitchen, 10ft 2in x 11ft 3in, is a range of fitted wall and base cupboards, a one-and-a-half bowl sink and drainer with mixer tap, integrated fridge, dishwasher, oven, grill and hob with extractor hood over, ceiling light point, radiator, double-glazed window and door leading to a utility room.

On the first floor landing there is access to the loft and doors leading to four bedrooms and a bathroom.

The master bedroom has fitted wardrobes, blanket cupboards, double-glazed windows and a

door leading to an en suite shower room with low-flush WC, part-tiled walls, hand wash basin and shower cubicle fitted with power shower.

The third and fourth bedrooms also include fitted wardrobes while the family bathroom includes a light point, radiator, low-flush WC, wash hand basin, bath, double-glazed window and part tiled walls.

The grounds surrounding the house include an L-shaped garden with patio, lawn, shed and side patio area leading to the rear garage and front of the property. The double garage measures 17ft 4in x 16ft 7in with a ceiling light point and two up and over doors.

For further information or to arrange a viewing call Homepoint on (01922) 611133 for details.

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45 King Street
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WV13 2BG



An end of terrace Bridgetown house

THIS two-bed end terrace house in the popular Bridgetown area, close to local amenities and transport links, is for sale priced at **£99,950**.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation at the property in Park Street, Cannock, briefly comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs bathroom, separate WC and two bedrooms, as well as a rear garden.

At the front a concrete printed driveway leads to double doors, with a paved front garden and path to the front door.

Diner

Inside the lounge, 22ft by 11ft 10in, has two brick built fire surrounds housing gas fires while the kitchen/diner is 10ft by 11ft and is fitted with a range of wall and base mounted units with work surfaces over incorporating a one and a half bowl sink and drainer with mixer tap, gas hob, electric oven, space for washing machine and fridge and storage cupboard. The downstairs bathroom has a suite of bath with shower over and vanity wash hand basin and there is a separate WC.

On the first floor are two bedrooms while outside the rear garden is concrete print with two wooden sheds.

Call estate agent Whitmove on 01922 496664 for further details.



This property in Park Street, Bridgetown, is on the market for around £99,950



The kitchen has a wide range of wall and base units affording ample storage

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4 BEDROOM HOME



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Cul-de-sac location for a modern detached house



A spacious three-bedroomed home with en suite in the master bedroom is available in a Bloxwich cul-de-sac. A MODERN detached home in Bloxwich is for sale based on offers around £194,950.

The property is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location in Lindrick Close, Turnberry, with the gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation briefly comprising of enclosed porch, entrance hall/stairs, lounge, separate dining room, conservatory, kitchen, guest cloaks/WC, three bedrooms - the master with en-suite - family bathroom, single car garage, paved driveway and landscaped gardens.

On the ground floor the lounge, 13ft 3in by 14ft 8in, has a feature chimney breast with contemporary fire surround with raised marble hearth and inset electric fire while the dining room is 9ft 7in by 7ft 11in and has a patio door to the conservatory measuring 11ft 2in by 9ft 6in, and also with double doors to the rear garden.

The kitchen, 11ft 10in by 6ft 11in, has a comprehensive range of base and wall units with roll top work surfaces and one and a half bowl stainless steel sink and drainer with mixer tap and space for slot-in cooker and fridge/freezer.

There is also a guest cloak/WC with low level toilet and wash hand basin. On the first floor bedroom one has an en-suite with shower cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin, and there are two further bedrooms and a bathroom with suite of panelled bath with shower screen WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

To the front is a block paved driveway leading to the garage with a low maintenance garden, and to the rear a patio area, dwarf walling and lawns with well stocked borders.

Call Marrión & Co on 01922 404446 for further details.

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 • Off road parking
 Offers around £94,950

NEW NEW NEW NEW

DORA STREET, PLECK
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Walsall Wrexham Avenue

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge/Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
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£575 PCM



Willenhall Brookhill Way

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Large Lounge/Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C./Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£550 PCM



Walsall Bernard Street

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen/Family Bathroom
- Storage Room/Study/Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers.

£550 PCM



Bloxwich Ingestre Close

- Two Bedroom End of Terrace
- Lounge/Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom/Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing/Gas C Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£525 PCM



Walsall Russell Close

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- Lounge/Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
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- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Large Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

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- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Sorry no DHSS

£495 PCM



Walsall Tanners Court

- One & Two Bed Apartments
- Lounge/Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

From £475 PCM



Walsall Cecil Street

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- To be Completely Refurbished
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Walsall Smiths Flour Mill

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Secure Entrance
- Sorry no DHSS

£475 PCM



Walsall Kenilworth Crescent

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge/Fitted Kitchen/Bathroom
- Double Glazing/Central Heating
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£450 PCM



Walker Road Blakenall Heath & Guild Court

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- Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing/DHSS Accepted

From £450 PCM



Blakenhall Heath Church Walk, Parish Court

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Secure Entrance
- Off Road Parking/DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Walsall Hale Court

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Fitted Kitchen/Bathroom
- Electric Heating/Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Garage to Rear

£450 PCM



Walsall Duchess Road

- One Bedroom Town House
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Electric Storage Heating
- Double Glazing
- Front Garden
- Off Road Parking to the Front

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- Lounge/Kitchen/Bathroom
- Heating/Communal Grounds
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£420 PCM



Bloxwich Usk Close

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen/Lounge/Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Shared Communal Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£390 PCM



Walsall Moat Road

- Two Bed Flats above retail premises
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- DHSS Accepted

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Bloxwich Marton Court

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- Fitted Kitchen

- Bathroom
- Courtyard parking
- DHSS Accepted

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NEW £475 pcm Darlaston Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property ● 2 reception rooms separated by archway ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear Garden DSS accepted 	NEW £475 pcm Kingsley Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 3 bed mid terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● DSS accepted 	NEW £460 pcm Franchise Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 2 bed mid terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs shower room ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear garden DSS accepted 	NEW £450 pcm Hall Street East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A re-decorated 2 bed mid terrace ● 1 spacious living room ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs bathroom with shower over bath ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● driveway DSS accepted 	NEW £425 pcm Lewis Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 2 bed mid-terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Fitted kitchen with cooker ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● DSS accepted 	NEW £380 pcm Bridge Lofts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A superb 1 bed apartment ● Openplanned lounge/kitchen ● Modern kitchen with integral appliances ● Stylish family bathroom ● Secure intercom system ● Town centre location
NEW PRICE Highgate Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A superb 4 bedroom detached property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Upstairs bathroom with shower ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Garage, Driveway, Guest WC ● Enclosed rear garden 	NEW PRICE Penryn Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A modern 3 bed detached property ● 1 large living/dining room ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Newly installed bathroom with shower ● Guest WC and integral garage ● Rear garden and driveway 	NEW PRICE Walstead Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An extended 3 bed semi detached ● Spacious through lounge ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Pantry and Guest WC ● Luxury bathroom with separate shower ● Garage and driveway for 2 cars 	NEW PRICE Mellish Park, Walsall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A luxury 2 bed 2nd floor apartment ● Open planned lounge/kitchen area ● Modern kitchen with appliances ● Superb family bathroom with shower ● Master en suite ● Double Glazing and secure Parking 	NEW PRICE Arundel Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 4 bed detached property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen/diner ● 2 family bathrooms 1 on the ground floor ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear garden DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Lichfield Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully refurbished mid terraced ● Lounge separate dining room ● Downstairs bathroom/upstairs shower ● 3 Double bedrooms/converted loft ● Large enclosed rear garden ● Off road parking
NEW PRICE Alderley Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A superb modern end terraced ● Spacious lounge with fireplace ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Guest WC and upstairs family Bathroom ● 3 Good sized bedrooms ● Fully enclosed rear garden 	NEW PRICE Stanley Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 3 bed semi detached ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with appliances ● Upstairs family bathroom with shower ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Enclosed rear garden 	NEW PRICE Bassett Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 2 bed semi detached ● 1 spacious reception room ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Upstairs bathroom with shower ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear verandah and garage 	NEW PRICE Darlaston Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 3 bed end terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Dora Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 Bed mid terraced property ● 2 Spacious reception rooms ● Fitted kitchen ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas central heating and double glazing ● Dss Accepted 	NEW PRICE Dora Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Lounge separate dining room ● Downstairs bathroom with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● DSS accepted
NEW PRICE Moat Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A re-decorated 3 bed mid terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear garden DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Forrester Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A re-furnished 2 bed mid terrace ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs bathroom with shower ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear garden, DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Essex Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Open planned lounge/kitchen area ● Modern fitted kitchen with white units ● Downstairs familybathroom and guest WC ● Gas Central Heating throughout ● Rear Garden DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Liskeard Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2/3 bedroom duplex apartment ● 1 spacious reception room ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Upstairs family bathroom with shower ● Double Glazing throughout ● DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Florence Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 3 bed mid terrace property ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Downstairs family bathroom ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● DSS accepted 	NEW PRICE Darlaston Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A traditional 2 bed mid terrace ● 1 spacious through lounge ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Upstairs bathroom with shower cubicle ● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing ● Rear garden DSS accepted
NEW PRICE Elmsdale Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 1 bed 2nd floor apartment ● Spacious lounge with feature fireplace ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Bathroom with shower over bath ● Good size double bedroom ● Allocated parking space 	NEW PRICE Miner Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 Bed mid terraced property ● 2 Spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen ● Modern bathroom with shower ● Central heating and double glazing ● Dss accepted with guarantor 	NEW PRICE St Clements Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A superb 1 bed 1st floor apartment ● 2 spacious reception rooms ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Pleasant family bathroom with shower ● Electric Heating and Double Glazing ● Secure allocated parking 	NEW PRICE Bloxwich Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Top floor studio apartment ● Modern fitted bathroom with shower ● Spacious living area ● Modern Fitted kitchen units ● Dss accepted with guarantor ● Rent accepted in arrears for HB 	NEW PRICE Gough Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 1 bed 1st floor apartment ● Open planned lounge/kitchen area ● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker ● Pleasant bathroom with shower cubicle ● Electric Heating and Double Glazing ● Neutral decor throughout 	NEW PRICE Ablewell Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A pleasant 1 bed apartment ● Spacious lounge/diner ● Fitted kitchen with electric cooker ● Pleasant family bathroom ● Secure key code entrance ● Town centre location



**WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD**

- Much improved extended three bedroom property
- Lounge and extended dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Garage and block paved driveway
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Convenient location
- Viewing recommended

£116,950 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 2PM

- A superb extended modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room
- Lounge and Dining rooms
- Well equipped extended dining kitchen inc oven and hob
- Large utility room and downstairs guest cloakroom
- Extended study/office
- Principle refitted family bathroom with shower
- Lovely established rear garden with lawn and borders
- Double driveway providing off road parking
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows

WAS £269,950 NOW £259,500 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 2PM

- Superbly appointed, considerably improved detached bungalow
- Spacious and versatile accommodation
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Large open plan L shaped lounge/kitchen
- Two ground floor bedrooms and bathroom
- First floor landing/study area with master bedroom
- Bedroom four/dressing room off
- Luxury shower room with walk in shower

£260,000 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SAT 14th & SUN 15th JULY 10am-12noon



- Pleasantly appointed detached double fronted bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 22ft fitted breakfast kitchen
- Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fully tiled shower room with walk-in shower
- Lovely enclosed rear garden with timber decked patio
- Block paved driveway affording ample parking

NOW £185,000



SATURDAY 14TH & SUNDAY 15TH JULY
ALL OF THE PROPERTIES FEATURED ARE AVAILABLE TO BE VIEWED OVER THE WEEKEND OF 14/15 JULY WITH NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. SIMPLY TURN UP WITHIN THE VIEWING TIMES STATED OR ALTERNATIVELY, CALL US BEFORE SATURDAY FOR A FIXED TIME APPOINTMENT.



OPEN VIEWING SUNDAY 15TH JULY 10AM - 12NOON

- Deceptively spacious, link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms and dressing room
- Bedroom 2 currently used as a second lounge
- Majority triple glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- 32ft double length garage
- Lovely established rear garden

WAS £182,500 NOW £177,500



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 10AM-2PM

- Superb extended four bed detached property
- Four bedroom and en-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Attractive front lounge with feature fireplace
- Excellent fitted dining kitchen with appliances
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Utility room and downstairs wc

£179,950



OPEN VIEWING SAT 14TH JULY 11AM-1PM

- Character Victorian style detached residence
- Generous plot with parking & two garages
- Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower
- Living room and 20ft extended lounge
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

£289,950 OPEN TO OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SAURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 3PM

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Fully tiled refitted shower room
- Tandem garage with electric roller door
- Established south facing rear garden

£179,995 OPEN TO OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 1PM

- Spacious extended modern style semi
- Extended at side and rear elevations
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 21ft lounge with feature fireplace
- Extended dining room and kitchen
- Utility room and downstairs wc

£145,000 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 2PM



- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Deceptively spacious versatile accommodation
- Three first floor bedrooms, downstairs bedroom four
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Breakfast kitchen and utility room/WC
- Upstairs refitted Jack and Jill bathroom
- 2ft tandem length garage
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

NOW £169,500 NO CHAIN



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 1PM

- Considerably improved modern style end town house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Smart fitted kitchen with appliances
- Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Excellent refitted bathroom with corner bath suite and shower
- Block paved driveway affording ample parking
- Potential to extend, subject to planning

£129,950 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 10AM - 12NOON

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached residence
- Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- Three bedrooms
- 24ft extended lounge and separate sitting/dining room
- 19ft extended dining kitchen including oven and hob
- Study/office
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- No chain, to include fixtures and fittings

NOW £137,000 OFFERS



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 10AM-12NOON

- Superb modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Substantial UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- VIDEOS TO PURCHASE FREEHOLD

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £200,000



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 2PM

- Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen with integrated oven, hob & pantry
- Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
- Enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Off road parking

£114,950



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 10AM - 2PM

- Pleasant modern style two bedroom bungalow
- Delightful cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with patio doors to the rear garden
- Bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

NOW £119,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 10AM - 2PM

- Pleasantly appointed improved modern style semi
- Gas central heating
- Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Carpet with double doors to the front
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

£106,500



OPEN VIEWING SAT 14TH & SUN 15TH JULY 10AM-1PM

- Pleasant three bedroom detached property
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Detached garage and block paved driveway
- Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve

£124,995 UP TO £1000 SOLICITORS FEES PAID



OPEN VIEWING SUNDAY 15TH JULY 12noon - 2pm

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 14ft through lounge
- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous landscaped rear garden

NOW £99,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 14TH JULY 11AM - 1PM

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi detached property
- Spacious accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating & double glazed windows
- Large enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking
- Viewing essential!

£102,000 This weekend only!!



OPEN VIEWING SAT 14TH & SUN 15TH JULY 11AM - 1PM

- Excellent modern style semi in popular locality with development
- Planning permission granted for a two storey side extension
- Cul-de-sac position
- Two bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Fitted bathroom with white suite and shower
- Pleasant 12ft front lounge
- Enclosed rear garden

NOW £100,000

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WS1 4SA

37 BIRCHFIELD WAY, WALSALL WS5 4EA

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615222



GUIDE PRICE: £55,000-£65,000

Traditionally styled semi-detached property with part double glazing and part central heating. Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Side Hall, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate WC, Off Road Parking and Rear Garden.

6 LITTLECOTE DRIVE, ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM B23 5QZ

Viewing: 17th July all at 10.00 am



GUIDE PRICE: £50,000 PLUS

Well presented one bedroom ground floor maisonette with double glazing and storage heating. Vestibule, Lounge, Inner Hallway, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Lawned Area to front and Parking Space.

20 BARNES LANE, RUSHALL WS4 1HE

Viewing: 11th & 18th July all at 11.15 am



GUIDE PRICE: £75,000-£85,000

A traditionally styled, gas centrally heated and double glazed semi-detached property situated in a popular residential area, making an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor offering potential for improvement. Fully Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Rear Living Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Side Lobby, Garage, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

72 GEOFFREY ROAD, SOLIHULL B90 2HN

Viewing: Saturday 14th July at 9.30 am, Monday 16th July at 11.00 am



GUIDE PRICE £135,000 PLUS

This traditionally styled semi-detached residence is set on a corner plot with ample garden space and driveway to the side leaving itself for the potential for extensions as required (subject to the necessary planning). The property which is in need of improvement and modernisation comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Side Verandah, Three Bedrooms, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.

22 BROADWAY NORTH, WALSALL, WS1 2AJ

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922-615222



GUIDE PRICE: £200,000-£225,000

This most substantial detached property is currently occupied as offices but now has planning permission for change of use to a residential dwelling house and offers truly spacious, well planned accommodation over three floors set on a plot amounting to some 0.18 acres. Situated opposite Walsall arboretum with stunning views from the front elevation the property lends itself to conversion to residential dwelling house or maintain its current use as offices, nursing home or other variety of commercial opportunities

37 MICHAEL ROAD, WEDNESBURY WS10 8NR

Viewing: 11th & 18th July all at 12.15 pm



GUIDE PRICE: £25,000-£35,000

Traditionally styled semi-detached property with canal to rear in need of improvement and modernisation and would make an ideal purchaser for an investor. Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.

276 FIELD ROAD, BLOXWICH WS3 3ND

Viewing: 11th & 18th July all at 10.30 am



This traditionally styled parlour style semi-detached property offering spacious well planned living accommodation offering tremendous scope for further improvement comprising: Reception Hall, Front Living Room, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Rear Lobby, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE: £60,000-£80,000

16 GLASTONBURY CRESCENT, BLOXWICH WS3 2QU

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615222



This traditionally style mid-town house residence that has been delightfully appointed and maintained by the present occupier to include full gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing together with refitted shower room making an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. Reception Hall, Lounge, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Side Lobby, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Fore and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE: £65,000-£75,000

115 WESTON STREET, WALSALL WS1 4EF

Viewing: 11th & 18th July all at 11.45 am



Traditionally styled brick and tile Victorian terraced house in need of some improvement but offering an ideal opportunity for investor or first time buyer with the benefit of double glazing and gas fired central heating. Front Lounge, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Yard and Rear Garden.

GUIDE PRICE: £50,000-£60,000

27 WESTON CRESCENT, ALDRIDGE

Viewing: 11th, 18th July at 9.45am



Traditional brick and tile semi detached residence offering tremendous scope for further improvement. Situated close to Aldridge Village, the property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Area, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Garage, Fore and Rear Garden

Guide price £120,000 - £140,000

5 CHAPEL STREET, PELSALL

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneer on 01922- 615222



A delightful detached family home situated close to Pelsall Village making an ideal purchase for a young family or investor. With gas central heating and majority double glazing, the property comprises: Entrance Hallway, Living Room, Cellar, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room, Front Driveway and Rear Garden

Guide Price £120,000 - £140,000

124 DAVEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM

Viewing: 16th July all at 11.30 am



Traditional Victorian two storey mid terraced house, gas centrally heated and double glazed. Hall, two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom and Three Bedrooms.

GUIDE PRICE: £90,000-£100,000

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£700,000

A stunning individually designed and built barn conversion and equestrian centre situated in grounds in excess of 12 acres. Approached via a private drive secured by electronic gates and benefitting from substantial accommodation and further stabling and land.



Riverbank Road, Willenhall

S.S.T.C.
SIMILAR PROPERTIES
REQUIRED

£265,000

A stunning double fronted four bedroom executive detached home situated on the extremely prestigious and sought after "Riverpoint" development. Viewings are strictly by appointment



Hunts Lane, Willenhall

S.S.T.C.
SIMILAR PROPERTIES
REQUIRED

£210,000

A stunning four bedroom, three bathroom detached home situated on a generous corner plot on the popular "Woodlands" development. A viewing is essential.

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Hunts Lane, Willenhall



£180,000

A stunning three bedroom detached home further benefitting from two bathrooms. Situated in an extremely sought after location in Short Heath on the "Woodlands" development. A viewing is essential and are arranged by appointment.

Glaisedale Grove, Willenhall



£180,000

Four bedroom detached house situated on the popular "Kingfisher" development. Presented in immaculate order and benefitting from a stunning loft room. Close to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and Willenhall Town.

Glamis Road, Willenhall



£158,000

A three bedroom link-detached home situated on a popular road in New Invention. Immaculately presented and further benefitting from a conservatory. Offered with no upward chain. Viewings by appointment with Dixons, Short Heath. Call us now don't miss out!!!

Ezekiel Lane, Short Heath



£150,000

REDUCED

Well presented three bedroom detached period style residence. Benefitting from two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, side vestibule, downstairs W.C., workshop/garage and driveway for several vehicles. No chain.

Oakeswell Street, Wednesbury



£140,000

Well presented three bedroom detached home with garage and exceptional rear garden. Situated close to Wednesbury Town Centre and Metro station. Benefitting from a refitted kitchen and bathroom

Noose Lane, Willenhall



£135,000

REDUCED

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home with garage, conservatory and refitted extended kitchen. Viewing essential to appreciate the space and standard of accommodation. Offered with no upward chain!!!

St. Georges Street, Wednesbury



£130,000

REDUCED

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home with spacious L-Shaped lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Further benefitting from driveway and garage. Offered with no upward chain.

Durham Avenue, Willenhall



£62,995

A two bedroom terraced home situated in a popular location close to Willenhall Town and the Guru Nanak Gurdwara. In need of cosmetic improvements hence the price. Offered with no upward chain.

Blenheim Drive, Wednesbury



£70,000

OFFERED WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN--Modern style ground floor apartment situated in Wednesbury located in reach to local transport links and amenities, comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom

Stroud Avenue, Willenhall



£95,000

Refurbished home on Stroud Avenue with great rear garden, renovated in 2012, the property offers two bedrooms, lounge with doubleglazed doors overlooking rear garden, kitchen and bathroom. No chain

Gurnard Close, Willenhall



£130,000

Extended two bedroom semi-detached situated on the popular Coppice Farm development. Briefly comprising lounge/diner, extended kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc and bathroom. No upward chain!!!



King Charles Avenue, Walsall



£57,000

A two bedroom terraced home situated in Bentley close to Jct. 10 M6. Presented in good order this would be an excellent first time buy or investment purchase. At this price it won't hang around long.

Ravenscroft Road, Willenhall



£115,000

NEW

A three bedroom end-terraced home situated on a popular development close to Pool Hayes School. Benefitting from driveway & an L-Shaped kitchen-diner. A viewing is strongly advised. Viewings by appointment with Dixons.



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SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom End Terrace Property In The Popular Lane Head Area. The Property Benefits From Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Central Heating, Double Glazing And Canalside Garden. CASH OFFERS ONLY

£49,995

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

LEACROFT, NEW INVENTION
A Three Bedroom End Terrace Property On The Sought After Forest Gate Estate In New Invention, Comprising Of Through Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, In Need Of Some Modernisation.

£62,995 ONO

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Cellar, Two Double Bedrooms And First Floor Bathroom, Secure Gated Off Road Parking And Rear Garden. The Property Is In Need Of Some Modernisation Ideal First Time Buy Or Buy To Let Purchase.

£69,995

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

COLTHAM ROAD, SHORT HEATH
Four Bed Semi Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor Bedroom Four With En-Suite Wetroom, Three Generous Bedrooms Upstairs, Family Bathroom, C/Heating & Mature Gardens. ADAPTED FOR DISABLED LIVING.

£79,995 ONO

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

RUDGE CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Town House, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Separate W/C, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Large Rear Garden With Potential For Off Road Parking.

£89,995

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Spacious Three Bedroom Town House, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Diner, Separate W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens.

£99,995

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
A Well Presented Three Bedroom Family Home Having Spacious Kitchen, Diner, Conservatory, Study, Lounge, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Driveway.

£105,000

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

SPINDLE TREE RISE, WILLENHALL
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WRIGHTON CLOSE, WILLENHALL
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HIGH STREET, CHESLYN HAY
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£145,000 ONO

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LEA VIEW, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Through Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Sitting Area, Downstairs W.C., Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, & Large Driveway.

£167,500 ONO

SOLD
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

HILTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY
Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached, Two Receptions, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Conservatory, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking. **VIEWING ESSENTIAL**

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LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

BRUNSLow CLOSE, WILLENHALL
First Floor Two Bed Flat Located In A Very Quiet Cul-De-Sac Having Entrance Hall With Stairs Leading To Main Living Area, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing, Electric Heating.

£450 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

VICTORIA MEWS, DARLSTON
Two Bed End Town House Having Good Sized Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, The Master Having Separate Shower Cubicle, Family Bathroom With Electric Shower, UPVC D/Glazing And Gas C/Heating.

£450 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

RAVENSBORNE GROVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid-Terraced Located In A Quiet Cul-de-sac Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms And Modern Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From Upvc Double Glazing Throughout And Electric Heating, Off Road Parking To The Front And A Good Sized

£450 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

RESERVOIR ST, WALSALL
Extended Two Bedroom Semi Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Sun Room/Utility Extension, Central Heating, Double Glazing And Large Driveway.

£500 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

SLATER STREET, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bedroom Terraced, Good Sized Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, W.C., Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Cul-De-Sac Location.

£500 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

SHEPHERDS DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Mid-Terraced House, Two Bedrooms, 19ft Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, C/Heating and D/Glazing, Generous Rear Garden

£520 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

WELLINGTON PLACE, WILLENHALL
Spacious Two Bedroom Mid Terraced, Two Receptions, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Luxury Family Bathroom, Loft Conversion, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden. **Available June 2012**

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SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

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SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

HAWKSWELL DRIVE, HADLEY HEATH
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£550 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

DELAMERE RD, SHORT HEATH
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£575 PCM

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SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

BROAD LANE SOUTH, WEDNESFIELD
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£600 PCM

LET
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

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 ASHMORE LAKE ROAD, WILLENHALL Spacious Two Bedroom Victorian Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Private Rear Garden. £500 PCM	 LICHFIELD ROAD, SHELFIELD Modern Two Bed End Terrace Property Having Spacious Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner Leading Into Open Plan Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Oven And Hob, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Gated Allocated Parking To The Rear. MUST VIEW. £500 PCM	 RAVENSBOURNE GROVE, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid-Terraced Located In A Quiet Cul-de-sac Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms And Modern Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From D/Glazing Throughout And Electric Heating, Off Road Parking. £450 PCM	 PRINCETHORPE ROAD, WILLENHALL Spacious Three Bedroom Three Storey Modern Town House Having Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Three Generous Bedrooms, Two En-Suites, Shower Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage And Driveway. £675 PCM	 HART ROAD, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented Three Bedroom End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating And Rear Garden. £450 PCM	 SANDBEDS ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached House, Having Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C, Fitted Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Generous Rear Garden, Good Sized Fore Garden Providing Off Road Parking. £520 PCM	 KINGSLEY STREET, WALSALL Large Three Bed Mid Terrace, Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. To The Outlets The Property Has A Small Walled Garden To The Front And An Enclosed Rear Garden. £475 PCM	 CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL Ground Floor Studio Apartment Comprising Of Lounge/Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room And W/C. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/Glazing And Electric Wall Heaters, Allocated Parking. £325 PCM
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Baby you can drive my car . . . it's a hit from a modern Beetle

MY first car was a green VW Beetle and I have fond memories of learning to drive and after passing my test exploring the country with my new found freedom.

It wasn't always plain sailing and having some mechanical ability certainly helped. Nevertheless, I have always held the Beetle in high esteem.

By Neil Ward

Some pundits have suggested that new Beetle has evolved from the original: I disagree. If you take a look at the Porsche 911 you can see a direct line back to the original. Not so with the Beetle, the new one has front engine, front wheel drive so for me it is a homage to the original. If this sounds like I disapprove of the new Beetle then you are mistaken. For a start the latest incarnation of the Beetle has moved forward the latest shape the most obvious change being the rear light clusters which I was not struck on.

It is only when you compare directly with the

model before you see the significant body changes that have been made. That said it is still unmistakably a Beetle.

Opening the driver's door reveals a colour coded dashboard that is not dissimilar to my first car and gives a perspective which I think is unique in today's cars.

The dashboard is clearly laid out with what has to be the largest fuel gauge I have ever seen.

Illuminated

Then I spotted the Fender decal on the door speakers. This is a £500 upgrade that gives 400watts of power a subwoofer in the boot and illuminated door speakers. It is worth every penny if you enjoy listening to your music.

What does differ dramatically from my first car is the performance and the handling. The 1.4 engine is a peach and sometimes it is difficult, because of the performance to believe it is not bigger. It pulls with an eagerness that encourages you to explore its full power. A combined fuel consumption of 40mpg also means that this performance does not need to

break the bank. Handling is superb and the Beetle can be thrown into corners confidently with suspension that is perfectly matched to the performance. Steering is precise and allows you to place the car accurately on the road.

As a driver's car the Beetle does not disappoint and the levels of grip available mean that it is sportier than it first appears.

So it is unfair to compare the new Beetle with the old? I think it is. The original Beetle has a cult following and hails from a different era when requirements for cars in a competitive market were not as strenuous as they are now. But, the new Beetle has much to commend it. From a performance perspective the Beetle provides great fun from its 1.4 engine. Handling is up there with cars with far more sporty pretensions and it is practical too.

Is it a worthy successor to the original? I think unequivocally it has to be yes.

Purists will probably hate it but the new Beetle still has no equal in the looks stakes and with modern performance it is difficult to fault.



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Tourer set to be star in Vauxhall Astra fleet

By **Graham Breeze**

TESTING the Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer proved to be a bigger surprise than expected. Because this isn't just an extended Astra. In fact this model is a very good alternative to the many compact MPVs or 4x4s on the

market at the moment.

And striking Sports Tourer branding makes this Vauxhall stand out in any company meaning it is anything but the boring estate I was expecting to see arriving for test.

The characteristics of the Astra have been cleverly transposed to the Sports Tourer. The slim, sharp "eagle-eye" headlight treatment, low and wide mounted indicator lights, combined with the wide, low radiator grille, make an immediate impact.

Outwardly flowing lines that seamlessly bring the wing profile into the A pillars highlight dynamic sporting aerodynamics.

The Astra Sports Tourer's 165bhp 2.0-litre CDTi proved to be a powerful and extremely spacious number. Compared to some of its main competition Vauxhall re-sale prices are not noted as being up there with the best but I suspect the biggest market for this model will come from fleet business.

It looks great inside and out with an attractive cabin, built with good looking plastic. There's impressive head and leg room up front and in the back where rear seat passengers soon expressed their impressed views.

Higher specification versions of the Sports Tourer are fitted with the FlexFold seating system allowing both sections of the 60/40 split rear bench to be folded down at the touch of a button.

With all of the rear seats folded down, the Sports Tourer gains a flat load floor and a total capacity of 1,550 litres. There's a further 25-litres of space in

cubbyholes and pockets dotted around the cabin.

There's a wide range of engine options and trim levels and there's an option list to satisfy just about all demands.

Standard equipment on all Astras includes ESP, six airbags, air conditioning, LED daytime running lights and electric windows.

You have to upgrade to Exclusive trim to add cruise control and stereo controls on the steering wheel, and to SE or SRI for standard alloy wheels.

Other options include mood lighting, sports seats and adaptive front lights which adapt to the weather and road ahead.

Functional

Vauxhall's cabins are noted for their functional rather than futuristic set-ups and the Astra Tourer is no different – though the controls are well signposted and everything is where you would expect it to be which is not always the case these days.

Where the Sports Tourer scores top marks is its smooth ride with a sharp responsive drive and plenty of grip though you have to remember this model is at the top of the range so you get what you pay for.

The Astra's suspension is silent, road noise well suppressed and the engine surprisingly quiet.

You have to upgrade to Exclusive trim to add cruise control and stereo controls on the steering wheel, and to SE or SRI for standard alloy wheels.

Vauxhall have got things right on the button with the Sports Tourer and with big things expected at Ellesmere Port you can expect to see more and more Astras on the road.



Sleek mover – the Sports Tourer comes with a range of engine options



The cabin has well signposted controls with everything in the right place

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) - 68.9 (4.7), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 237 - 89g/km.



The satnav system is well positioned on the dash

BUMPER TO BUMPER

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CO2 emissions: 124 g/km
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Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
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SPORT

thechronicle

Shire Oak rounders girls play the best

A GIRLS' rounders team from Walsall are one of the best 16 teams in the country. The Shire Oak Academy year 10 team, aged 14 and 15, qualified for the national tournament, run by Rounders England, by beating teams from Streetly, Willenhall and Sheffield.

The fiercely-contested finals, with a minority of the sides from state schools, took place in Corby, Northamptonshire.

Teams were split into four groups of four, each side playing three matches. Shire Oak opened against St Peters School, York, losing 12-4. The second match saw them face Dinnington School, South Yorkshire, a tight affair with Dinnington winning by two rounders.

Strongly

Despite these defeats, the girls still fought strongly against Crompton House, Oldham, but were on the losing side. However, they were far from disheartened and arranged a friendly against Solihull, who had also been knocked out.

PE teacher and coach Sara Eccleston said: "The girls had reached this event which was between the top 16 teams in the country, something to be extremely proud of. They played to the best of their ability in all three games, competing against year 11 students and England players. The girls had a great attitude, being positive, playing as a team and enjoying themselves."

The team members were: Aliyah Ferguson, Kirsty Thomas, Chloe Partlow, Charlotte Newman, Jade La'Moon, Jess Sedgwick, Bryony Toon, Jess Gunn, Sam Smith, Elizabeth Askew, Louise Chandler and Charley Birch.

Jones is left to rue his defeat

DARTS player Wayne Jones' hopes of going to the World Matchplay are over after another first round defeat saw him run out of time to reclaim a place in the top 16.

Jones was left 18th in the PDC Order of Merit, two spots shy of claiming a place in the PDC's next televised knockout tournament on Sky Sports.

"The Wanderer" lost 6-3 to Michael van Gerwen and went out of the PDC's third European Tour event at the Maritim Hotel in Dusseldorf, Germany. The Wednesday darter averaged 100.77.

Stars might go, but only for big money

WOLVES may cash in on £10m-rated pair Steven Fletcher and Matt Jarvis – but only for "once-in-a-lifetime offers".

Manager Stale Solbakken held talks with the pair as the squad returned to Compton for pre-season training.

Sunderland, Stoke and Fulham want Fletcher and the Potteries club have a long-standing interest in Jarvis, but no offers have been made for either player, who both have three years left on their contracts.

The Norwegian boss said the pair will join next week's training

camp in Ireland and will honour their contracts for as long as they are with Wolves.

But he admitted their futures are unclear. "I spoke to both of them and it's always like this when you have a contract and you have other possibilities," said the boss.

"At the moment they're Wolverhampton players but there can be big fish out there who suddenly come in with a once-in-a-lifetime offer for them, and also a very good deal for the club. We have to make sure we're ready for that."

"Jarvis and Fletcher are good, attractive players, and know they

Wolves

can attract interest from the Premier League clubs. They probably think there's an opportunity."

Asked if he anticipated losing them, Solbakken hinted that their prices may be prohibitive.

"I think it's impossible to say," he said. "The expectations from the club and the player could also be too big and they're both worth a lot on and off the pitch."

"On the other hand, as I told both players 'you could break your leg or damage your knee ligament

tomorrow but I won't say I won't pay you your money for the next three years'."

"That's why we have contracts, and I expect them to honour the contract while I'm here, 100 per cent. Both said they had no problem with that."

Solbakken is also considering the future of Michael Kightly as he goes about shaping his squad for the new season.

Kightly – along with Christophe Berra, Stephen Hunt, Sylvan Ebanks-Blake, Nenad Milijas, Ronald Zubar and Adlene Guedioura – is out of contract at the

end of June, when he will be entitled to leave on a Bosman free transfer.

In the past, Wolves have secured players on long-term deals before contracts are due to expire. But Solbakken is putting talks on hold.

"Sometimes you have to let players sit out their contract because you can maybe get a fee for them," said the boss. "But then you have to weigh up that fee with whether you are strengthening or weakening the football club and what can you get back for that money on a short-term basis by getting a new player."

Wood in action for first of five friendlies

WALSALL WOOD return to action tonight with the first of five pre-season friendlies.

Wood are at Rushall, having reported back for training in the third week in June.

With the exception of Nathaniel Jones, who has moved to Boldmere St Michaels, Wood have last year's final squad plus a few new players.

It's a new-look 20-team Midland Combination Premier division next season. Continental Star have been promoted to the Alliance; Bartley Green have moved to the West Midlands League – changing places with Stafford Town. Castle Vale have disbanded.

The Vale management team which included former Wood boss Rob Masefield have moved to Alliance strugglers Heather St John.

The 20 teams also feature Atherstone Town, relegated from the Alliance, plus Division One champions Blackwood, runners-up Littleton, Bromsgrove Sporting and Lichfield City.

Tamworth are the visitors to Oak Park on Saturday, July 21. Hednesford visit on Tuesday, July 24 while two days later Wood are at Chasetown Reserves.

Pre-season ends with a game on Saturday, July 28 at Sutton Coldfield Town.

The season proper starts on Saturday, August 4 but Wood probably will not know their opponents until the week before.

Fans raise Toby cash

A CHARITY football match to raise money for Toby Craddock, the son of Wolves defender Jody, will take place on Saturday at the Goals Soccer Centre in Willenhall.

Two-and-a-half-year-old Toby has acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and has started a lengthy process of treatment at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The match, which takes place from 1pm, will be contested by Midlands football fans from Wolves, West Brom and Birmingham.

All proceeds go to the hospital's charities with players paying £15 to take part. Spectators are welcome and will be subject to a small charge to watch the game. There will be a disco and raffle afterwards.

Straw turns into gold with 1,500m triumph

RUNNER Becky Straw grabbed a gold medal for the West Midlands in the Aviva English track and field championships in Gateshead.

Straw, who runs for Cannock and Stafford AC, won the senior girls' 1,500m race. The 17-year-old clocked four minutes 27.18 seconds as she held off Avon's Olivia Sadler in second and Katherine Turner in third.

"I am really pleased with the gold," said Straw. "I wanted to get a medal here, but I know nobody was going to hand it to me on a plate."

"I spoke to my coach beforehand and he said that 'you have no absolute right to get this, so you have to work for it' so that is what I did."

"My coach told me to kick on with 240m left but I kind of started my wind-up at 400m and managed to hold on."

Advice

"I have the same coach as Hannah England (world silver medalist). Obviously, I don't keep up with her but she gives me great advice as I train with her at Birmingham University."

Cannock and Stafford AC had a total of 10 athletes taking part. Emma Hamplatt threw a personal best and club record of 39.57 metres to win the Under-15 girls javelin and go to No.1 in the UK rankings. Club members Lucy Heap and Harry Marshall threw 30.50m and 45.18m respectively.

Natalie Muckerji qualified for the junior girls 100m final after finishing third in

Athletics

her heat and fifth in her semi-final.

Muckerji recorded a personal best of 12.69sec in the heat and then 12.81sec in wet conditions for the semi-final.

In the televised final on Saturday she was last but ran 12.76sec, the third time she had gone under her previous personal best during the two days of competition. Eleanor Proud knocked almost three-tenths of a second off her 300m best time, finishing third in her heat in 41.41sec.

Jess Leek jumped 5.12m in the long jump and James McCann was fifth in his 800m heat on 2:02.05.

Olivia Walker qualified from the senior girls 100m hurdles semi-final when finishing fourth in 14.94sec and then came sixth in the final in a time of 14.81secs.

Fellow hurdler Steve Thompson was sixth in his junior boys 80m heat in 12.44sec.

Aviva have been backing the British athletes and the GB & NI Team since 1999. Details: #BackTheTeam or search for 'Aviva Athletics' on Facebook.



I'm the No.1 – Becky Straw crosses the line to win the senior girls 1,500m title at the Aviva event in Gateshead

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SPORT

Gold Straw

Track triumph
for Becky, 17
Page 55



Getting set

Walsall Wood ready
for the new season
Page 55

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Pics close to keeping star man at the club

RUSHALL Olympic are poised to complete a deal to keep star striker Ahmed Obeng at Dales Lane.

The club are confident that the Ghana-born hitman, 20, will commit to for the new Evo-Stik Northern Premier League season. Promotion hero Lei Brown has already signed up for a third spell with the Pics after leaving Studley, while the club have also landed defender Wayne Daniel.

Attacking midfielder Brown netted the first goal in Olympic's 2-0 play-off final win against Grantham in 2011 but left last summer. Brown made a brief return last season but has rejected a move to Redditch to rejoin the Pics.

Daniel joins from Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division side Evesham, where he was named the 2011-12 Supporters' Player of the Year.

Towering

The 35-year-old has had spells at Kidderminster Harriers, Stafford Rangers, Worcester and Nuneaton.

A club spokesman said: "Wayne is a towering defender who can also weigh in with his fair share of goals, as well, and we are sure that he will turn out to be a tremendous signing."

"His experience of football at this level will be invaluable for us."

"During his time with us, Lei was a fans' favourite. He likes to get forward."

● Rushall Olympic will host Woodford United at Dales Lane in the first round qualifying of the FA Trophy on Saturday September 29.

The Pics will first travel in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup on Saturday September 8.

They could face any of four teams in Lye, Bartley Green, Boldmere, St Michaels or Bridgnorth.

Bowls coaching on offer for free

FREE bowls coaching for youngsters is on offer at a Walsall club.

Stafford Road Bowls Club in Bloxwich will run the sessions, starting on Saturday, July 28, from 11am to noon.

Anyone aged 11 or older who would like to have a go at crown green bowls is welcome to attend.

Bowls can be supplied and there is also an opportunity for parents and grandparents to have a go too.

For more information contact Hayley Scott on 07761 348841.

Woffinden gets an average route to the final

Speedway

TAI WOFFINDEN is through to the British speedway final – without turning a wheel.

The Wolves ace was due to ride in the semi-final at Sheffield, with the top seven going through, but the event was rained off.

The Rye House semi also fell victim to the weather.

With the forecast uncertain for the next couple of weeks, the sport's bosses are worried that restagings might not be completed before the showpiece date at Monmore Green on Monday, July 30.

Now they have decided to offer the 16 places on the basis of rider averages.

And although the paperwork has yet to be

finalised, that means Woffinden will be in the field. The 21-year-old, just back in action after a lay-off following surgery to a broken wristbone, has the highest average of any British rider in the top flight and is about half a point clear of Coventry duo Chris Harris and Scott Nicholls.

Major events co-ordinator David Hoggart said: "We feel the risk of further postponements is too great which would then potentially impact on the final itself."

"The line-up for the British final will therefore be determined by averages, with

the top 16 eligible riders seeded to the event, and this list will be available shortly."

**Australia 45 Great Britain 41
Czech Republic 30 Germany 15**

Woffinden will bid tonight to help Great Britain through to the Speedway World Cup final in a sudden-death shoot-out in Sweden.

The Brits tackle the Czech Republic along with the sport's powerhouses Denmark and Poland in a four-way fight for the last remaining place in Saturday's showpiece in Malilla, Sweden.

Great Britain were always likely to make this evening's race-off at Malilla at the very

least after being handed a favourable draw.

They hosted Australia, the Czechs and Germany on Monday. But both the Aussies and the Brits were well aware that direct qualification would be the easier route to join seeded hosts Sweden and Russia, who qualified from the other semi-final.

Consequently they went at it hammer and tongs at Lynn in a sparkling meeting on the excellent Norfolk Arena track.

The Brits went desperately close, Coventry's Chris Harris leading the way with a superb 17-point return while Woffinden notched eight points, including a couple of heat victories. But it was not enough.

Lockmen grounded in FA Cup

WILLENHALL will play host to landlords Sporting Khalsa when both teams enter the FA Cup in the extra preliminary round.

The Lockmen will take on Khalsa in a home game for both sides at Noose Lane on Saturday, August 11, with both also at home in the first round of the FA Vase.

A fixture rethink will be needed as Willenhall are due to host Brocton, while Khalsa are also scheduled to welcome Heath Hayes on Saturday, September 10.

Willenhall are back in the West Midlands League for the first time since 1994 and will kick off in the Premier Division next month.

The Lockmen have a busy pre-season fixture list and all four of their scheduled friendlies will come away from home.

They now travel to face Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division South opposition on Saturday.

A gulf of two divisions will exist for the Lockmen at Sutton Coldfield Town, before they travel to Castle Vale next Saturday.

Coleshill host them on Saturday July 28 as do another league rival from last season, Loughborough University, on Wednesday, August 1.

Colts on the hunt for new recruits

PELSALL Villa Colts FC want players in all positions for their Under-11, Under-12 and Under-13 sides.

They are also looking for players and a manager for the new girls team, catering for school years nine and 10.

Call Graham Shemmans on 07712 405005 or e-mail development.officer@pellsallvillacolts.com for details.

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MANNY INSISTS IT'S RIGHT TIME TO GO

WALSALL defender Manny Smith is insisting the time was right to leave the club after he quit for Notts County.

The defender has signed a two-year deal with the Banks' Stadium side's League One rivals to become the 12th player to exit Walsall this summer.

Smith, who made his debut in 2007 after coming through the ranks, rejected a new two-year deal with Walsall and said he couldn't ignore the Magpies.

He said: "It was hard, I started there in the youth team and they made me into a player. I played loads of games, so it's sad to go – but the time was right to kick on. "I spent all my time there, the gaffer (Dean Smith) was decent and we had a good crowd and good players but it's time to move on."

"Notts County are a big club, very ambitious and I just can't wait to get started."

Stadium

"I had a few options, but the gaffer (Keith Curle) showed great interest in me."

"I sat down and spoke to him a few times and he was very keen on me and very keen on taking the club forwards."

"It's a very ambitious club with a big stadium, good crowd, good players and they finished just below the play-offs last season so hopefully we can kick on and try to finish higher."

"David Grof (Walsall goalkeeper) said it's a big club, they will make me a decent player and there's a good atmosphere."

Smith made his Walsall debut in a 2-1 win at Torquay in 2007 and went on to make 138 appearances for the Saddlers after coming through the youth system.

He follows fellow defenders Oliver Lancashire, Mat

by Nick Mashiter

Sadler, Lee Beevers and Darryl Westlake out of the club. Only Andy Butler and Richard Taundry remain from last season's defence though the club have kept goalkeepers Jimmy Walker and Grof.

Smith is set for a swift reunion with his former club when they travel to County for the third game of the League One season on August 25.

"It'll be an interesting one. I need to work on getting into the team and cementing my place here but with Walsall being so early it could be very interesting," added Smith.

Butler has warned Walsall's rivals they must be ready for a fight. The Walsall skipper believes promotion favourites may feel the heat when the season starts with Saddlers hosting relegated Doncaster on August 18.

"There's some big clubs coming down but there's a lot of pressure on them to do well," he said.

"You saw Sheffield United – when the pressure came on them towards the end of the season, they crumbled a little bit."

"So there will be pressure on Portsmouth, Coventry and Doncaster."



Manny Smith, left, competes for the ball with Chariton Athletic's Dale Stephens at The Valley, London

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